Agriculture - 1922

Alabama

Improvement of

THE FARMER IN 1922.

Montgomery Advertiser

A middle Alabama farmer, who has not bought a bushel of corn since he began operations in 1902, said to The Advertiser yesterday:

1/10/22

"My tenants ordinarily draw $200 a year from me. At the beginning of 1921 I called them in and told them that whether they liked it or not it was absolutely necessary for them to run on $40 each for the coming year. They made wry faces, and said I had asked them to do the impossible. I told them I was sorry, but $40 a piece was all the money that I could raise for them, and they could take it or leave it.

"Know what happened? Every last one of them got by on his $40 and at the end of the year was out of debt. The negroes said to me recently that in the beginning they didn't see how on earth they could make it on such a restricted budget, but that as the days went on every time they started for town they thought of something on the farm they could take along to sell. And when they got there they thought of many articles they had wanted to buy, but could really get along without buying, and so didn't buy them.

"They raised more corn, meat, potatoes and syrup than usual. They lived fairly well through 1921, and are living quite well now. They are well-fed, out of debt, and are going to get along immeasurably better this year. What people don't think about much is that while the Alabama farmer hasn't any money, and can't sell his products at a profit, he has plenty to eat. He is well supplied with food staples. He hasn't got to buy these out of his cheap cotton. He already has 'em stored away. He is going to make this year's crop cheap, and he is going to do it under more comfortable circumstances than he made his 1921 crop. Therefore, I say the Alabama farmer is in very good condition to face the future."

The Advertiser asked this farmer what he thought about another proposition. He was reminded of the dilemma of the Western corn-grower, who has an immense crop on hand which he can not sell at a profit, but is burning for fuel, in many instances. He was told that farmers' organizations in the West are using the same phrases that the cotton planter is, and preparing for an acreage reduction campaign in 1922.

Our Middle Alabama farmer, known to be a level-headed man, said:

"That's all right. The Westerners, who grow corn for the market, and have over-produced, probably ought to reduce acreage this year. They would be justified in doing it, just as we would be justified in reducing cotton acreage again.

"But the Alabama farmer—the Southern farmer—needn't get the idea in his head that he ought to reduce corn acreage, too. Absolutely not. He ought to go right on increasing his corn yield every year until his corn crop is sufficient to supply his personal needs, for table, stable and pig-pen. My idea is that each Southern State should grow its own corn and get out of the market for corn on which to run. Let each Southern State be independent of the Western cornfields. It costs a farmer less to grow his own stuff than it does to buy it."

Now, as ever, diversification is the keynote to independence for the Alabama farmer.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A ONCE FAMILIAR TYPE.

Montgomery Advertiser

1/9/22

Following the advent of the boll weevil, the county farm demonstration agent, and diversified farming, there has been brought about in Alabama the extinction of a type of rural citizen typical of the Old South. The type may not have disappeared entirely, but it is so far gone that it can be safely treated in the past tense.

A study of the hold obtained by cotton on the sentiment of the Southern farmer is to reveal a degree of affection on the part of a human being for a plant grown purely for commercial purposes, such as has perhaps never been found elsewhere. The cotton plant and its fleecy product have figured prominently in the literature of the South; song, story and tradition having glorified it, and the practical monopoly of the South in cotton gave to its production a sectional pride of an intense type.

Statisticians quoted the millions of bales of cotton produced annually in the South, and their total value, without, however, giving the average annual income of the families producing it. The poet sang of "fields of snowy white;" the cultivation of cotton was an art, a science, an almost sacred tradition. The complicated details of hand culture involved in its production were handed down from father to son unchanged. The cotton farmer came to regard himself as empowered by Divine authority to clothe the world, even if his own children went barefoot. In short, the cotton plant held a place in Southern sentiment similar to that of the Shamrock of Ireland, or the fleur-de-lys of France; with the great difference, that while the Irishmen has his potatoes, and the Frenchman subsists upon soup, the Cotton Belt farmer gave the affection of the rose-grower for a plant upon which he was far more dependent than the Kansas farmer upon wheat, for example.

This curious mixture of the sublime and the practical produced in the South a type of farmer familiar to all who have mingled with the people of its rural districts of the South. Both large and small farmers were included in the group; but the most typical representative was the small, "one-horse" farmer, of middle age or beyond, with a wife and considerable children, a rented farm, a mule bought on a credit, and a digestion impaired from eating of too much fatty concentrates.

If you become acquainted sufficiently with this man, you found that everything in his life hearkened back to one wonderful year, ten or fifteen or twenty years back. when for once in a decade or so conditions were just right, and he made 14 bales of cotton to the plow and for once in his life actually paid out of debt.

It was not difficult to get your farmer friend to talk about this; it was likely to be his chief theme. He would tell fondly how the cotton was grown, picked, ginned, and warehoused; how at the opportune moment he gave the order to sell; how he walked into the office of the man who had advanced him for years, and according to his version cheated and tyrannized over him, and announced that he had come to pay up. Of the incredulity with which this statement was received; how he laid down the cash, rid his soul of some remarks, and walked out into the air, for once a free man; and of the team of mules he bought with the surplus cash. As he told you of it, his face became animated; his eye gleamed with a fanatical light, and you realized that you were face to face with a love which indeed passed all understanding, and a faith wonderful to behold.

It took no questioning to discover that the succeeding years had reversed this temporary good fortune. Your farmer friend was deeper in debt now than ever. His house was dilapidated, his wife and children in similar plight as to clothes. If you chanced in at meal time, and were invited to partake, with true Southern hospitality, the menu consisted of corn bread, biscuits, salt pork, coffee, and syrup; with the probability that everything except the syrup and possibly it, had been purchased at the nearest store; on credit, of course.

There was no visible indication of happiness about the place; even the underfed children at play were apathetic, prematurely melancholy. The father was too busy to grow a garden, or to buy his wife a cow and a few purebred chickens. Living in a country where vegetables might be grown every month in the year, the family in its relation to the soil reminded of nothing so much as a flying squadron of cavalry camped in a hostile country. The children suffered from scurvy, lack of fresh green food, even as did the crews of Magellanes and Drake who sailed round the world in the Sixteenth Century and for months touched to no shore. The relation of the head of the house to his family was that of the inveterate gambler who stakes all on one throw and lets his wife and children starve. The entire family, somehow, gave you the impression of a household which had been cheated of its destiny; deprived of its just expectations of a snug farmhouse, green fields, and happy youngsters. All because the man at the head of affairs was the victim of some sinister influence; an obsession which in some cases verged on insanity, and which lead each year to the repetition of the plunge in cotton to the exclusion of all else.

If anyone doubts the deep-rooted nature of the sentiment described, it is only necessary to consider the years of poverty, the combination of boll weevil onslaught and wartime high prices for food, and the countless educational efforts of the State and Federal Government, which were necessary to eradicate it. Even today, in some remote sections, there may be a few men who show by their actions that they have "learned nothing and forgotten nothing" in agriculture since the years just after the Civil War.

But for Alabama and the South as a whole the type of all-cotton farmer is passing. Cotton is still grown, and will be, but as a money crop, and not even exclusively at that. The man who grew nothing but cotton, who would not plant a row of beans or broadcast a few handfuls of turnips in the Fall, or try a cover crop, was a man of many virtues. He exemplified to a high degree, Faith and Hope; but he was utterly without Charity, either to himself, his family, or the land he bled white.

Ten Years of Southern Development Showing Percentage of Growth Since 1910.

Atlanta Constitution 11/26/22

	1910	1920	Pct. Inc.
Population	32,480,343	36,306,855	11.8
Area, square miles	945,000	945,000	.....
Manufacturers:			
Capital	*$2,885,927,608	*$6,885,546,000	138.6
Products, value	*$3,158,388,799	*$9,808,114,000	210.5
Power used, horsepower	4,029,599	6,189,337	53.6
Mines, Quarries and wells:			
Capital	*$657,011,924	*$2,274,509,653	246.2
Mineral products, value	$369,678,060	$2,285,835,000	518.3
Power used, horsepower	*974,092	*1,983,545	103.6
Farm property, value	$10,961,865,176	$21,685,380,495	97.8
Farm products, value	*$3,915,000,000	*$5,900,000,000	50.7
Highway expenditures	$30,000,000	$144,000,000	380.0
Railroad mileage	85,739	91,169	6.3
Exports, value	$628,487,700	$2,436,968,154	287.6
Deposits, national banks	$899,203,608	$2,666,313,000	196.5
Deposits, all other banks	$1,056,732,000	$3,447,151,000	226.2
Public school expenditures	†$65,150,000	$204,225,100	213.5
Assessed value: Taxable property	$13,040,022,045	$29,072,775,000	122.9

* Census figures. † 1908.

$100,000 Fund Raised by Montgomery County, Alabama to Attract Settlers from North and West and to Promote Local Dairy and Stock Raising Interests.

A fund of $100,000 has been raised by the Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery, Ala., for the purpose of presenting to the farmers of the north and west the opportunities of Montgomery County, also to promote its livestock and dairy farming and to foster the interests of those already engaged in agriculture in the county, with the further aim of having the larger plantations divided into smaller farms and populated with substantial white farmers. Discussing the raising of the fund and the plan in general, Mr. W. F. Black, general secretary of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, writes the MANUFACTURERS RECORD:

"This fund was placed in the hands of a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, creating a new department known as the Farm Section of the Chamber of Commerce. They chose for the active manager of this branch, Mr. Jesse B. Hearin of West Alabama, who had already established a reputation of himself in that particular field of endeavor.

"For the last twelve months emphasis has been placed upon the growing of clover and alfafa for the purpose of soil building as well as financial returns. It is readily seen that as the growth of these commodities increases, live stock raising must certainly increase in proportion. The department has been remarkably successful in bringing to this section a large number of progressive farmers and dairymen, many of whom have brought in several herds of high grade dairy cattle, Guernsey, Jersey and Holstein.

"It is to be noted in passing that the dairy products of Alabama last year were double the value of the entire cotton crop for the State. Another feature of the department is promoting the co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of the farming people and the city. Much of this is being done through the splendid system of schools for which this county is already noted. The community fairs and community welfare meetings are attended by the town people, who often take part on the programs, which is welding together the people in good-will and unified efforts.

"The department has successfully appealed to the county officials to secure adequate appropriations for the replacement of the small school by the modern consolidated schools, placed with a convenient traveling radius of every farmer in Montgomery County which now has the most comprehensive and modern system of rural schools of any county in the United States. It has already several modern high schools in a well selected location.

"Last year the Montgomery County Education and Agriculture Campaign 'Revival' was held in the city, in the form of a ten day series of meetings conducted by some of the foremost educational and agricultural lecturers in the United States. The city and county educational departments accorded their full support and co-operation."

NEGRO FARMERS MAKE PROGRESS, SAY REPORTS

Ten-Day Conference at Tuskegee Brought to Close Saturday Afternoon

(Special to The Advertiser)

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., July 15.—Many reports of outstanding agricultural progress among negro farmers of Alabama were made by the negro county fair and demonstration agents during their annual conference here which came to a close today. The conference was attended by more than forty negro extension workers, reporting progress in all sections of Alabama.

M. B. Ivey, local agent for Bullock county, told of the rapid growth of dairying among both white and colored farmers in Bullock county. He stated that the cream station which was started in Union Springs last February is now patronized by 135 white farmers and 50 negro farmers who had received more than $17,000 for cream up to June 20. The March sales amounted to $2,500 and the June sales $4,000. In the meantime, several thousand dollars worth of hogs and cattle were shipped from Bullock county.

Laura R. Daly, negro home demonstration agent for Montgomery county, told of the progress of canning among the negroes, stating that their goal is 365 cans for each family taking up canning work.

J. D. Branes, local agent for Greene county, made an interesting report of progress by the negro farmers in producing more food and feed crops, made necessary because of the ravages of the boll weevil.

The negroes of Lowndes county are rapidly taking hold of club work, according to H. V. Irwin, negro home demonstration agent for that county. Each club meeting is well attended because simple, practical facts are taught and demonstrated.

A report of the movable school work was made by Henry Howard, who told of how the negroes are taught at these schools to do simple, practical and necessary jobs around the home, con- g of small but necessary im- ments and the making of such ings as rugs, tin cups, soap, bas- kets, fireless cookers and other es- entials.

C. M. Kynette, state club leader, re- orted that 2,100 negro boys are en- d in club work this year and T. J. Brown told of 7 Marengo county negro club boys who have on deposit in a bank $750 as a result of club work.

The South the Coming El Dorado Of American Development

(From the Manufacturers Record.)

"The development of the south means the enrichment of the nation.' That statement, written nearly forty years ago to the Manufacturers Record by Hon. William D. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, long known as the father of the house of representatives, becomes more forcible as the south advances.

According to the last census, the southern states, in practically every line of business and industry, far surpassed the output of the whole country in 1880, and in some items as late as 1910. In the south, the nation has a mighty empire increasingly contributing toward the country's material advancement and prosperity. Every dollar spent or invested in the south remains in the United States and adds to the wealth of the whole country. The development of the south's great storehouse of raw materials and waterpower makes it the most fertile trade field for the manufacturers of this country.

The magnitude of the buying power of the south can be realized when it is considered that this section is now producing:

About 100 per cent of the country's bauxite.
About 100 per cent of the country's fuller's earth.
About 100 per cent of the country's turpentine and rosin, which is about 85 per cent of the world's output.
About 100 per cent of the country's cotton crop (less a few thousand bales raised in Arizona and California), which is about 60 per cent of the world's cotton.
About 100 per cent of the country's cottonseed oil and peanut oil.
About 100 per cent of the country's sugar cane.
About 99 per cent of the country's sulphur, or more than three-fourths of the world's output.
About 99 per cent of the country's phosphate rock.
About 93 per cent of the country's cane syrup.
About 93 per cent of the country's sweet potatoes.
About 92 per cent of the country's crude barytes.
About 90 per cent of the country's aluminum.
About 90 per cent of the country's early vegetables.
About 89 per cent of the country's carbon black.
About 80 per cent of the country's rice.
About 75 per cent of the country's natural gas gasoline.
About 66 per cent of the country's commercial fertilizers.
About 60 per cent of the country's natural gas.
About 60 per cent of the country's graphite.
About 57 per cent of the country's petroleum, or about 36 per cent of the world's production.
About 51 per cent of the country's mica.
About 50 per cent of the country's quartz.
About 50 per cent of the country's lumber.
About 48 per cent of the country's asbestos.
About 46 per cent of the country's peaches.
About 45 per cent of the country's lead.
About 42 per cent of the country's zinc.
About 42 per cent of the country's chickens.
About 40 per cent of the country's asphalt.
About 40 per cent of the country's feldspar.
About 36 per cent of the country's corn.
About 33 per cent of the country's pyrites.
About 33 per cent of the country's talc and soapstone.
About 30 per cent of the country's lime.
About 26 per cent of the country's coal.
About 25 per cent of the country's apples.
About 25 per cent of the country's sugar.
About 24 per cent of the country's sand and gravel.
About 20 per cent of the country's hay.
About 19 per cent of the country's wheat.
About 18 per cent of the country's cement.
About 18 per cent of the country's clay products.
About 18 per cent of the country's stone.
About 17 per cent of the country's white potatoes.
About 16 per cent of the country's coke.
And the south has about 37 per cent of the country's swine, one-third of the country's cattle and milch cows, and about 19 per cent of the country's sheep.

The south with over 36,000,000 people and 945,000 square miles of land, has about one-third of the population and one-third of the area of the United States. It has three-fifths of the coast lines of continental United States. It has a greater combination of natural advantages than any other equal area in the world.

The south has the greatest natural gas fields known in the world.

The south has the largest sulphur deposits known in the world.

The south has an estimated oil reserves of 55 per cent of the entire supply in this country.

The south has three-fourths of the coking coal of the country.

The south's coal area is twice as great as that of all Europe including Russia; and fives times as great as all of Europe excluding Russia.

The south's iron resources are in keeping with its coal reserves.

The south has one-third of the mines and quarries capital of the country.

The south has 40 per cent of the country's fostered area.

The south has 55,000,000 acres of reclaimable wet lands.

The south can raise enough live the wool with which to clothe the country and much of the world.

The south can raise enoughl ive stock to feed the country.

According to the last census, the south has about 23 per cent of the number of manufacturing establishments (capitalized at more than $500 and excluding hand and building trades and neighborhood industries) in the United States. The capital invested in these plants amounted in 1920 to over $6,885,000,000 and the value of their products to more than $9,808,000,000. They give employment to more than 1,800,000 people. The amount of capital invested in southern factories is nearly three times the amount of capital invested in manufacturing in the whole country in 1880, and within 13 per cent of the capital invested in manufactures in the rest of the country outside of the south in 1900.

The south purchased over $6,094,000,000 worth of materials for its factories in 1919.

The amount of capital invested in cotton factories in the south is about $850,000,000, which is more than four times the amount of capital invested in cotton mills in the whole country in 1880. The south is now consuming in its own cotton factories about 63 per cent of the American cotton taken by American mills.

The value of the mineral products of the south at the last census was $2,285,835,000. This is $295,000,000 more than the total for the whole country as late as 1910 and over $1,918,000,000 more than the total for the United States in 1880. The south has increased the number of its mines and quarries since 1910, while the rest of the country outside of the south has had a decrease. The number of petroleum and natural gas wells in the south has increased since the 1910 census by 195 per cent, while the increase in the rest of the country ouside of the south was but 24 per cent.

In 1920 the south produced about 26 per cent of the country's coal, which was 98,000,000 tons more than the output of the whole country in 1880.

Development of water-power in the south up to 1920 amounted to 2,249,600 horse-power, an increase of 1,257,659 horse-power since 1908. The maximum undeveloped water-power of the south is estimated at over 8,000,000 horse-power.

The south on about 36 per cent of the total farm acreage of the country produced over 41 per cent of the country's crop values in 1920. The value of southern farm property in 1920 was $21,685,380,000 or $1,245,000,000 more than the value of all farm property in the United States in 1880.

The south in 1920 spent $224,180,000 for commercial fertilizers, or nearly twice as much as the whole country spent for fertilizers in 1910.

The south's 91,169 miles of railroad represents over a third of the railroad mileage of the entire country.

The south spent on highway improvement through state highway departments $150,000,000 in 1921, and it is estimated that over $400,000,000 will be spent in 1922 in the south under federal, state and county supervision.

The value of exports through southern ports for the fiscal year 1921 was over $2,294,189,000 or more than a third of the value of the total exports of the United States and $519,205,000 more than the total value of the exports of the United States in 1910.

National bank resources in the United States in 1900 were $5,048,000,000, within 5 per cent of what the whole resources of $4,678,000,000; deposits in national banks in the United States in 1900 amounted to $2,506,000,000 while the south had deposits in national banks in 1920 of $2,666,000,000. Other bank deposits (state, savings, private, etc.) in the south in 1920 were $3,624,000,000, compared with $4,400,000,000 the amount of deposits in all banks, excepting national banks in the rest of the country outside of the south in 1900.

The south spent on public schools in 1920 over $204,225,000, which is ately $70,000,000, or probably double the wealth of the try 40 years ago.

This array of facts on the south's economic development outlines the possibilities of this region of marvelous resources and achievements as a field of cultivation by the business men of the nation. Viewed in the light of the fact that the south is the first section of our country to show a marked revival of activity and of the light of development impossible now that business in this section is moving ahead on a solid foundation, it is a trade field that no wealth of the whole country can afford to neglect.

The estimated true wealth of the United States in 1880 was about $43,000,000,000, while the estimated true wealth of the United States in 1920 was $448,000,000,000, or more than ten times as much as in 1880. The south in 1880 had about one-eighth of the wealth of the United States, or $5,375,000,000, and in 1920 about one-fifth of the wealth of the United States, or $89,600,000,000, compared with $448,000,000,000 the amount of wealth of the whole country and much of the world.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Agriculture – 1922.
Improvement of.

Alabama.

BREAKING UP SUGAR PLANTATION

Montgomery Advertiser

There is a significant agricultural news story in Sunday's issue of the New Orleans Times-Picayune. It is written from Houma, La., by a member of the staff, and begins with the statement that the beginning of the end of huge landholdings and gang labor operations in Louisiana is seen in the closing of a contract at Houma on Saturday. 12-19-22

This agreement calls for a subdivision and sale in small and medium-sized farms of several thousand acres of fertile agricultural lands immediately adjoining and surrounding Houma and comprising five noted sugar plantations.

The correspondent states that virtually all of these lands are in cultivation and produce great crops of cane and corn. "They have been kept up at a high state of agricultural development at all times. Nearly every acre of the land is within sight of Houma," he writes. In fact, part of the property will be segregated as an addition to the town for residence and industrial purposes. The company that owns the property and will sell it in small tracts is owned by a number of representative citizens of the parish in which the lands are situated.

The correspondent gives the reasons for the change that is about to take place. He says:

> These men are unanimous in the opinion that the introduction of the small farm community will vastly improve conditions in any section, in comparison with the old system of great land holdings by individuals or corporations and gang system labor in their operation.
>
> Terrebonne parish lands have long been famous for their fertility. Since the first settlement of the Terrebonne country it has been known by its French appellation, the translation of which is "good land." A constant demand has existed for farm lands here which has largely remained unsatisfied, as little acreage has been on the market for many years.
>
> The new development and the breaking up of the five great plantations contemplated is, therefore, a startling reversal of the common usage in the sugar belt. In the past the rule has been to constantly increase the size of the holdings—never to diminish them.
>
> Experience, however, has cast new light on the situation. It has proven that the small farmer has consistently outclassed the great plantation operatives in tonnage of cane per acre as well as in economy of operation. The small operator has prospered under conditions that proved difficult for the great plantations. And in those sections in which the population was largely composed of small farmers and their families the percentage of business and all-around profit has been much greater than in the large plantation sections.
>
> Acting on this belief and with a thorough understanding of conditions, the People's Sugar Company recently decided to colonize its immense holdings and by the signing of the contract obtained the services of expert, experienced men for the work of directing immigration.
>
> * * * *
>
> The lands to be sold aside from being situated at the door of Houma, are especially adapted to subdivision. Bordering on three sides of Houma, the limit of one being the limit of the other, the plantation for years has circumscribed the growth of the town. This defect is to be remedied immediately by the segregation of a portion of the property as a city addition, containing both residence and industrial sites.
>
> * * * *
>
> An excellent system of roads divides the properties in all directions, each connecting directly with the streets of Houma, the splendid parish highway system and also with the transcontinental highways, the Old Spanish Trail and the Pershing Way, both of which border the properties and are under construction as splendid hard-surfaced roads.
>
> The main feature of interest to the farmer or producer, marketing facilities, provide one of the strongest attractions of all in the proposed plan of colonization. Situated centrally among all of the lands in the project is the modern sugar factory on the Argyle plantation. The People's Sugar Company will retain and operate this mill, thus providing a constant market for all sugar cane produced on the properties. It has been proven that a sugar mill operated independently of planting operations can be operated much more economically than one in which the costs and risks attendant upon cropping must be taken into account.
>
> The operation of the mill and thirteen-mile system of narrow gauge tram railways, which reach all parts of the land under consideration, by the parent company will make it possible for this factory to pay higher prices for cane than is the rule among the factories operating in conjunction with immense planting operations.
>
> Much attention will be paid to crop diversification here and in this connection ready local markets are provided for garden and farm products at the Houma canning factories and through local farm organizations being formed and fostered through the co-operation of the Houma-Terrebonne Association of Commerce and local demonstration agents of the State Department of Agriculture.
>
> According to the plans as outlined, the work of subdivision will begin at once. Divisions will be made so that every possible natural advantage will be utilized. An innovation is the introduction of a low interest rate for the purchaser—this eliminating one of the real bars to investment in this section in the past. Long time terms will be given and every possible safeguard is to be thrown about the purchaser in order that he may at once become a contented and thereby a useful citizen of the community.
>
> "Experience of years has taught me the value of contentment among landholders and purchasers," said C. H. Lyons in discussion of the big project.
>
> "I have been engaged in immigration work for many years and one of the strongest lessons it has taught me is that the old axiom, 'a satisfied customer is the best advertisement,' is a true one.
>
> "I have made a careful survey of this local situation before going into it and I do not see how anyone desiring to farm could wish a finer location provided his way is made at all clear. And in working out our plans I have kept this in mind. I believe this development means a great deal for Trrebonne and the South."

This story should be of special interest to the Alabama Black Belt, where the great plantation system is still in vogue. As a result of this it is known that per acre production in the Black Belt is low compared to what it would be if our naturally rich lands were cultivated by small holders and operators.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Agriculture – 1922.

Improvement of

Delaware

Colored Citizens of Delaware to Hold Series of Industrial and Economic Conferences.—Dr. J. U. King of Washington, D. C., Principal Speaker at First Meeting Held at New Castle—Other Prominent Citizens of Delaware on Program

Wilmington Advocate 7/1/22

New Castle, June 30—In order to cope with the great industrial and economic problems arising out of the great world war, a series of meetings are being held by the Colored people throughout the State of Delaware. At these meetings a plan is being discussed which seeks the industrial and financial development of the Colored people. Already arrangements have been made for meetings in Delaware City, Dover, Wilmington and a number of other points in Delaware.

A meeting in the interest of this movement was held Thursday, June 29, in New Castle, which was attended by large groups of the prominent Colored people of New Castle and Buttonwood. Rev. J. U. King, of Washington, D. C., was the principal speaker. The committee of prominent Colored citizens who called the meeting was composed of Rev. J. L. Taylor, Rev. S. S. Lankford, Rev. W. H. Guy, Prof. J. M. Coulbourn, Prof. Jason Terry, Harry Townsend, Jessie Guy, James Blackston, Charles Smith, Daniel Wright, Carl Battle, Samuél Anderson, Harry Hall, Harry Harris, John Battle and Messrs. Cooper and Davis, of which committee Prof. Coulbourn was chairman and Prof. Terry vice-chairman.

The program for the meeting which was presided over by Rev. J. L. Taylor, included an invocation by Rev. W. H. Guy, a solo by Mr. Fullman, the introduction of Dr. J. U. King by Rev. Taylor, the address of Dr. King, a selection from the New Castle Glee Club, remarks by Charles H. Coulbourne, of Wilmington, remarks by Mrs. Alice Dunbar-Nelson, a prominent resident of Wilmington, a solo by Prof. J. M. Coulbourn, and remarks by Joseph D. McGhee of Washington, D. C., followed by benediction by Rev. S. S. Langford of Buttonwood.

Enthusiastic reception was given the address of Dr. J. U. King and the plan outlined to promote an organization to help Colored people in business, in the building of homes, churches, schools, colleges, hospitals and other worthy intitutions.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEL 15

Agriculture — 1922.
Improvement of
Florida.

FARMERS ORGANIZE IN FLORIDA

By A. N. P.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. June 23,—The Farmers' Union, composed exclusively of colored farmers of Florida, met here in Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, with H. H. Williams of Hastings, president. There were representative farmers from every one of the agricultural counties of the state, and the meeting was a most interesting one. Co-operative buying and selling were the two outstanding topics and well laid plans were made for putting these into immediate operation.

The meeting was addressed by J. D. McDuffy of Marion County, Florida's foremost and most progressive farmer; F. P. Gadson, banker and merchant, of Ocala; Dr. N. B. Young, president of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College; Dr. J. E. Ford, pastor of the church where the meeting was held. The general discussions were participated in by many who were present. Prof. A. A. Turner, state agent of Farm and Homemakers Clubs Mrs. M. E. Washington, assistant; and County agent S. H. Hendley of Gainsville, and other active workers who have done much in the past few years to awaken the farming element of the state, was present and very active in the meeting.

At the night session, H. H. Simmons a prominent white farmer and realty dealer, was present by invitation, and delivered an address that pleased all.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Agriculture – 1922

General

Improvement of.

What Co-operation Means

EVERYBODY in the South who has signed a contract for coöperative marketing of any crop, no matter whether it is cotton, tobacco, rice, peanuts or truck crops—and everybody who has been asked to sign such a contract—all are interested in the questions: "What does coöperation mean? How far should we go with it? How has it worked out in the states and countries where it has been tried longest?"

Progressive Farmer.

First of all, let us get a clearer understanding of what coöperation means.

Here in the South we are now just learning our A B C's in this respect.

Signing contracts for coöperative marketing of any particular crop—this is just the beginning. We have got to go on until coöperation in the everyday life of farmers becomes the rule instead of the exception. We have got to go on until we develop that "spirit" of coöperation which Mr. G. Harold Powell emphasized so earnestly in his farewell message discussed in The Progressive Farmer last week and which is so well exemplified by the progress of Danish coöperation as told on the next page.

Coöperation in its largest sense is something more than a way of doing business. It's a way of living a life. It means breaking away from the selfishness of the ancient policy of "every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost."

It means an awakening in the hearts of men to the fact that we not only earn dividends of money by working with our fellows, but also rich dividends of happiness. If we miss this spiritual significance of coöperation, we miss one of its most important objects.

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Agriculture—1922
Improvement of

Georgia.

Soule's Survey Of 30 Counties Is Completed

Atlanta Constitution

Shows Evils of One-Crop System Followed in Middle Georgia.

Ga.

1/11/22

Macon, Ga., January 10.—(Special.)—The survey which Dr. A. M. Soule, president of the Georgia State College of Agriculture, will submit to the Macon Chamber of Commerce Thursday night, was completed today and covers conditions in the 30 counties tributary to Macon.

The survey shows that in the 30-county district there are 16,428 farms operated by owners, and 50,424 farms operated entirely by tenants. The improved acreage per farm varies from 50 to 131 acres, and the average for all the farms is 81 acres. The total acreage under cultivation is 3,193,-352, in a possible acreage of 7,099,-320, showing less than 45 per cent of the land in the producing area is being worked.

Aside from white and sweet potatoes, the 30 counties last year grew only 7,110 acres of vegetables and truck crops. It is estimated in the Soule survey that acreage devoted to truck farming should not be less than 50,000 or 60,000 acres. The production of forage and hay in the Macon territory last year was not sufficient to feed the horses and mules on the farms. The cotton crop of 402,000 bales in 1919 dropped to 122,000 bales in 1921.

Live Stock Industry.

Comparatively little attention is given to the development of live stock, dairying and poultry raising in the district, the report shows. A large part of these products now consumed in the district are imported from other sections.

The fruit industry is well developed and the bulk of Georgia's $10,000,000 peach crop in 1921 was produced in the 30-county area. The acreage in nut trees is extremely small and should be greatly increased, thinks Dr. Soule.

Plans for Improvement.

Dr. Soule will attend the meeting Thursday and give his report in person. The market program under consideration by the chamber of commerce embraces every possible product of the territory.

Included in the program are: Erection of a grain elevator, development of warehousing and grading facilities, promotion of Georgia products in north and east, development of export trade in sweet potatoes, plan for uniform marketing to furnish revenue to the farmer throughout the year, development of packing and shipping facilities, absorption of all surplus products by the American Cone and Pretzel company, in its mammoth marketing plan to develop Georgia products.

THE BRIGHTENING SKIES IN DIXIE

Atlanta Georgian

THE ATHENS NEWS has a very timely and a very sensible editorial on the progressing downfall of the tenant system of farming in Georgia that is interesting and illuminating.

The News says:

1/12/22

The days of the negro renter in the South is fast passing.

The negro, left to his own devices, will not—can not raise cotton under boll weevil conditions. He has neither the judgment nor the enterprise necessary.

As a consequence, the landowner who has, heretofore, rented 40 acres to a negro tenant for so much lint cotton and left the negro to his own devices, so long as he paid the rent, is fast waking up to the fact that the old order is passing. He is learning that the negro can not raise cotton; that his rent is not forthcoming as in the old days; and that, if he wishes to get a fair return on the money invested in his farm lands, he must make some other shift.

As a consequence, thousands upon thousands of negro tenants, who have heretofore rented, are now "cropping." Instead of being turned loose with a farm and left to work out their own salvation as was the case with renters, they must now work under the personal supervision of the landowner or a competent white overseer. And instead of being allowed to plant 30 of their allotted 40 acres in cotton, these tenants are now being allowed to plant only ten acres.

This means not only that better farming will result because of this expert supervision, but that crop rotation, something the South has never known in a general sense, is assured.

There are today hundreds nad hundreds of fields in Georgia that have been planted in cotton every year without a break for almost half a century. In thousands of cases, shiftless negro renters have even planted cotton year after year in identical rows. They would take a "middle buster," rip up the stalks of one season's crop, and plant the new crop on exactly the same ground, without taking the trouble to shift even to the middle of the row where the ground would have been much more productive.

Now, however, this will not be allowed. When the landowner or his representative has a monetary interest in what the negro raises, he is going to see that the land is properly prepared; that the crops are rotated as they should be; that the negro raises enough foodstuffs to supply him the year round, and that the land is given fair treatment—something it has never received heretofore.

As a consequence, it would seem that the boll weevil is anything but an unmixed evil. If it does nothing else, it will undoubtedly force crop rotation upon Dixie and will compel the owners of millions of acres of land to give to their holdings attention such as they have never before received—attention through want of which the South has lost countless millions of dollars annually.

Many things are working together for the good of the South nowadays—many things that mean a future of unparalleled prosperity and stability.

The day that sees the last of the tenant system of farming in Dixie will be one of the brightest days in all its history.

The day that sees the last of the tenant system will be the one that sees the last of the handicap to the South for many years. It has retarded progress for both whites and blacks. Circumstances are forcing its abandonment; and, indeed, as the Athens News says, if the boll weevil be the big factor in that, then blessing be upon the head of the boll weevil. It has served us better than we knew.

The abandonment of the tenant system will make easier the assembling of the South for the co-operative marketing of its cotton—and its other products, for that matter—and that's another thing to be thankful for, for once the South is compactly organized as to that, cotton will be a profitable crop, without fail, year after year, generation after generation—the very backbone of Southern prosperity.

And that seemingly is what God designed it to be.

BARRETT PRAISES SERIES ON WEEVIL

Atlanta Constitution

1/26/23

President of the National Farmers' Union Declares Hollomon Articles Will Be of Great Value.

Washington, January 25.—(Special.)—Charles S. Barrett, president of the National Farmers' union, and chairman of the National Board of Farm Organizations, declared today that The Atlanta Constitution, in telling the actual story first hand of how the cotton farmers of the southwest had solved the boll weevil problem, was doing one of the greatest pieces of constructive work ever undertaken by a southern newspaper.

"Cotton must always remain the money crop of the south," said Mr. Barrett, "and how to grow it successfully under boll weevil conditions, which we have and will always have, is the question that is more important to that section than any other of the many economic problems that confront the farmers today.

"In James A. Hollomon, who is making these investigations in the southwest, The Constitution has one of the ablest analysts in American journalism. He is so recognized not only in Georgia and the south, but throughout the nation, for he is nationally famous as a writer, commentator and investigator, his various series in the past having created national interest, and been copied and recopied from ocean to ocean.

"The Constitution is to be congratulated in this work, and the farmers of the southeast who know of Mr. Hollomon's careful and reliable work at all times, will hang upon his articles as authority, and I firmly believe they will be worth millions of dollars to them this very year."

THE HOLLOMON ARTICLES.

The initial installments showing the results of the investigations of The Constitution's staff correspondent, James A. Hollomon, of boll weevil control in the states that were first attacked by the destructive little pest, indicate the value of the series in helping the southeastern section of the cotton belt to solve the problem that now confronts our people.

Atlanta Constitution 1/26/23

In his first two articles, Mr. Hollomon shows that the farmers in the section first visited by the boll weevil, are not only making good their early losses on cotton, by other products, but that some of them are actually producing more cotton per acre than was ever produced prior to the period of weevil infestation—and this on land within the territory where the weevil plague was at its worst!

He shows that it is all not only in "knowing how," but in the application of that knowledge to the business of farming.

In subsequent articles, Mr. Hollomon will go into detail as to the methods that have been tried and proven successful in the cotton states west of the Mississippi, his information being gathered, not from laboratory experimenters and scientific theorists—valuable as are these conclusions and deductions—but mainly from personal observation and from first-hand contact with the actual "dirt farmers" who have produced these results.

And what Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi have done, Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas can do!

In placing these articles within reach of our farmers, The Constitution is rendering a timely service to all this section.

That this service will be fully appreciated is attested by the large number of commendatory letters coming to us, and this appreciation is strikingly attested in the voluntary expressions of the delegates in the high councils of the agricultural interests of the southeast, who are in attendance at the Georgia markets conference now in session at Athens.

Our farmers and business men should not fail to avail themselves of this opportunity to learn exactly how the cotton-growing industry can be carried on as profitably under weevil conditions as it was before the weevil came—not by exterminating the pest, which is admittedly out of the question; but by successfully growing cotton despite it.

These articles simply recite the formula that has been applied and worked out elsewhere.

Don't miss them!

BROOKLYN STANDARD UNION
JANUARY 22, 1922

NEGRO FARMER PROSPEROUS

(By International News Service.)

DUBLIN, Ga., Jan. 21.—Business is good on Cain Foreman's farm. Cain, a negro, brought into town specimens of a second pecan crop in this year and a second apple crop on one tree this same season. Both pecans and apples were nearly matured.

A WORTHY EXAMPLE.

In publicly offering to place their financial facilities and resources at the disposal of farmers desiring adequately to equip their farms with live stock, through a process outlined and discussed by H. G. Hastings, president of the Georgia association, in a communication appearing elsewhere upon this page, the banks of Turner county have set an example which might be followed with profit—to themselves as well as to the community at large—by every other bank or group of bankers in this state.

Atlanta Constitution 1/29/23

Briefly stated, these banks collectively have bought space in "The Wiregrass Farmer," published at Ashburn, in which they advertise the fact that henceforth they will lend "to worthy farmers of our county financial assistance in providing live stock"—"good dairy cows, hogs and poultry,"—their policy being, however, and wisely, "to lend such aid only to farmers growing on their farms sufficient feed to properly care for all live stock on their farms."

This announcement is indicative of the fact that the banks of Tur-

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ner county have awakened to a realization, not only of their opportunities to expand their business and increase their earning by promoting the industry upon which their existence depends, but also of their duty to their community and state.

Georgia is essentially an agricultural state, and the welfare of the banker is inseparable from that of the farmer.

The prosperity of the farmer formerly was dependent upon cotton; but that day is gone, perhaps never to return.

The invasion by the bollweevil has necessitated a complete revolution in farming methods throughout the cotton belt states.

It has necessitated the adoption of a complete new system of agriculture in the south, based upon the principle of diversification; and the substitution for cotton of food and feed crops and live stock as a stable, dependable source of operating revenue and profit.

This means that creameries, packing houses, pickling plants and manufactories must be provided to create a market for the raw products of the farm under bollweevil conditions.

And to do that presents a duty that devolves not alone upon the farmer, but upon the banker and the urban business man.

All that the farmer reasonably can be expected to do is to produce the raw commodities and deliver them to the manufacturer or shipper; and the duty of providing a market for them, and of handling them from the time they leave the hands of the producer, devolves upon the business men of the city.

But as the initial step it is necessary to finance the operations of the farmers during the transition period; and that is the business of the bankers.

No bank can do this single-handed.

It requires the joint effort of the banks, and the co-operation of merchants, manufacturing interests and farmers.

The banks of Turner have gone about it in exactly the right way; and it is safe to say that if the farmers respond as they should, this action by the banks insures a new era in the development of agriculture in that county.

Let us hope the banks of every other county in Georgia will follow the splendid precedent established by those of Turner county.

Agriculture - 1922

Georgia

Improvement of

J. S. WILLIAMS BRINGS $350,000 GEORGIA FORTUNE TO MARYLAND

left American Baltimore, Md.

Southerner Buys 213-Acre Home In the State—Brings Three Tenant Families With Him and 25 Carloads of Farm Stock and Equipment—19-Year-Old Daughter Bosses the House

8-18-'22

Bringing with him 25 carloads of farm stock, machinery and equipment and a fortune conservatively estimated at $350,000. J. S. Williams, for many years one of the leading farmers of the South, has shaken the dust of Southern soil from his shoes and come to Maryland to make his future home.

For many years Mr. Williams has successfully conducted a farm 14 miles from Savannah, Ga., and has been widely known throughout the country as the man who got out the first bale of cotton to be shipped to a foreign port from 1912 to 1919. For seven years he won the prize of $1000 offered for the first complete bale of cotton ginned in any crop year. He owned 350 acres of fertile land has already contracted to purchase 213 acres here in Maryland upon which he will conduct a modern farm. He is also bringing three of his best tenant families from his Georgia farm and will add more from the local field.

"How are things in the South now for colored farmers," Mr. Williams was asked by an AFRO reporters. After considerable hesitation, he replied, "Brother, some day when I get all straight, I will tell you, but not now. You can take my word for it people are still leaving there. I could tell you some things that would make your hair raise up on your head and it will not be things I heard either.

"God is bringing a mighty justice on the South," continuel Mr. Williams. During the time that Mr. Williams was winning the first bale prize each year he received several threatening letters meant to suppress his industry, and especially the winning each year of the $1000 prize.

Mr. Williams is a widower but has a 19-year-old da..ghter who is the "big boss" in the Williams household. The brother to E. C. Williams, president of the Savannah Savings Bank and another brother conducts a successful drug business. It is his opinion many of the successful farmers and business men of the South will leave for parts where they may have more freedom in utilizing the results of their thrift. The actual wealth of many of the colored farmers is not known for many of them withhold from public knowledge their savings less it create hostility. Many thousands of dollars are hidden in the ground and other unknown places in the South waiting the time when their owners can dig them up and go where they can have free use of them.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Improvement of FARM LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

WHILE THE NUMBER OF FARMS owned or operated by members of our group is greater in the South than in all other sections of the country combined, those in the North, West and Canada are not only more valuable but more productive, relatively, for the reason that these farmers play the safety first game, instead of risking their all on cotton or sugar cane; they go in for diversified farming. But even under the most favorable conditions and with the most careful planning there comes what is known as an off season, when the farmer is hard pressed for funds to keep the wheels rolling until better times.

THE FEDERAL FARM LOAN ACT was designed to meet just such emergencies and the government already has loaned vast sums of money, but through the manipulations of local branches very little has found its way into the empty purse of the Colored farmer. The trouble does not lie with the federal farm loan board at Washington, but rather with the local money sharks who do not wish to let our farmers get from under their control. An Illinois farmer who made application for membership and a loan was told by the local committee that "white people would be considered first."

WHEN CONGRESS enacted the federal farm loan act in 1916 the legislation was not intended to apply to any particular class of farmers. There are probably 10 or 15 Colored associations out of a total of nearly 4,500. This, too, in the face of the fact that we represent 14.7 per cent of all farmers, while our population is only 9.9 per cent of the total population.

AS ANY TEN or more farmers can organize an association there is no reason why we should not look after our own interests. There is another phase to this borrowing from the government proposition that is quite as important to us as the actual handling of the dollars, and that is the protection of property interests. With a government first mortgage lien on our property the lawless, prejudiced element will not be so ready to burn and otherwise destroy, because they will fear government action against them. The small number of our farmers who have taken advantage of government loans cannot be taken as an indication of greater prosperity, but rather of unprogressiveness. When we have opportunities let us take advantage of them.

Hezekiah Brooks, Negro gardner and fruit grower of Miami, recently announced the successful conclusion of his attempts to produce a new variety of mango. The result is destined to fill a gap in the fruit calendar of this section because, he claims, the fruit ripens between November and January, a period during which the mango is not to be found in the market.

The Brooks mango is similar to the Mulgoba in appearance and texture, but is declared to be superior to that variety in flavor. Some experts pronounce it a cross of the Mulgoba and Sundash.

If this new variety is marked by reduction in the size of the pit or stone the elimination of the stringy fibre and turpentinish flavor, the Brooks mango may prove to be a fruit that can be consumed in comfort outside the bathtub.

Ten Alabama Crops Alone to Bring Farmers $185,833,000 in Year 1922; Increase Over 1921 Is $52,000,000

The prospective value of the crops in Alabama, as forecast by the October 1 report, loses about $7,530,000 from that of a month ago according to an interpretation made by F. W. Gist, federal and state statistician, following the report issued by the Washington office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Monday. This is the final forecast of the season, the next report as of November 1, being a preliminary estimate of the yield and production of such crops as have not already been determined.

The following statement shows the forecast of production of the ten leading crops in this state as interpreted from the condition figures of October 1, together with the comparative production as finally estimated for 1921:

	1922	1921
Corn, bushels	46,950,000	62,251,000
Cotton, bales	843,000	580,000
Peanuts bus.	4,889,000	7,260,000
Hay, tons	801,000	801,000
Sweet potatoes, bushels	13,529,000	12,150,000
Irish potatoes, bushels	4,920,000	2,400,000
Sorghum syrup gallons	6,405,000	7,650,000
Sug'r cane syrup gallons	6,025,000	8,760,000
Oats bus.	4,986,000	4,404,000
Wheat, bus.	300,000	321,000

The following values are computed at present prices for the quantities named above, in comparison with the value of the final harvest last year:

	1922	1921
Corn	$42,250,000	$38,844,000
Cotton, lint and seed	96,945,000	50,800,000
Peanuts	4,889,000	5,082,000
Hay	11,294,000	12,380,000
S. potatoes	12,85',000	8,870,000
I. potatoes	7,675,000	4,080,000
Sorghum syrup	2,562,000	3,213,000
Sugar cane S. ..	3,615,000	5,413,000
Oates	3,490,000	4,404,000
Wheat	300,000	321,000
Total	$185,833,000	$133,407,000

These ten crops a month ago gave promise of a total value of $193,363,000. They constitute about 75 per cent of the harvested crops of this state, to which must be added the value of livestock and their products and also the value of unharvested crops.

Pastures on October 1 showed a condition of 65, compared with 76 on September 1, due to lack of moisture.

Another important Oklahoma item: The World reports that E. LeViolet, Colored farmer, won the merchants' prize at Morris by bringing in the first bale of cotton. He got 8½ for good middling, and with his bonus took $174.50 home for the bale.

Kimbrew, another Colored farmer, was coming over the hill half hour behind LeViolet with his bale. He won second prize. He got 7½.

A white farmer got third prize, but as the first WHITE farmer with a bale he got 8½.

News covers all matters, including cotton. Black wealth in the U. S. A. is built on cotton.

A lot of people think it is built on resolutions and stock in first one thing, then another.

Not so; white farmers North raise what you eat and some of what you wear; black farmers South raise most of what you wear—cotton.

Tearing Off the Mask: Why They Fight Co-operative Marketing

THE best thing that has ever happenned to the coöperative marketing movement in the South was the answer made by the opponents of coöperative marketing in the Nashville, N. C., court case referred to on the page opposite this.

Nothing that any speaker, official, or advocate of coöperative marketing has ever said has been more convincing than the statement made by enemies of coöperative marketing on this occasion. Everybody knows that the opponents of coöperative marketing have been telling the farmers of the Southern states that coöperative marketing could never amount to much; that it could never give them the profits and power they hope to get under it.

But when a growers' coöperative association sued a contract-breaker, what sort of defense did the opponent of coöperative marketing make for this man in the court? Did they plead in his behalf that coöperative marketing was a delusion and a snare; that it was an attempt to mislead and deceive the farmer; that it could never give the farmer the profits and power he expects from it?

By no means. On the contrary, the opponents of coöperative marketing in this case threw off all hypocrisy and pretense. They did not even pretend that they were fighting in behalf of the farmer to save him from being duped and misled. On the contrary, as we said at the time, they set out with the emphatic declaration that the coöperative marketing law gives the farmer such privileges and advantages as other classes do not enjoy and that the coöperative marketing association proposes to make the farmer so powerful and so wealthy that coöperative marketing will become "injurious to the public at general"—evidently meaning the middlemen and speculators who alone, so far as we can see, would be hurt by this increased prosperity of the farmer.

In order that we may not be accused of misrepresenting the opponents of coöperative marketing in this connection, let us quote the exact language of the defense made by the attorneys for the contract

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breaker in the Nash County court. First of all, having declared that the coöperative marketing law gives special privileges and special advantages to the farmer as compared with other classes of citizens, these attorneys went on to say:

"As an illustration of the power and danger which will result from the formation of associations under the act aforesaid, this defendant shows that if the plaintiff association had been in existence in 1919, 1920, and 1921, it could have compelled the producers of all tobacco in the State of North Carolina, had all joined the plaintiff association, to deliver to it the crops of tobacco made in the three years, which would have amounted to approximately 1,053,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco, which was sold for approximately $360,500,000, and by withholding the same from the market and manipulating the same, **could have absolutely controlled the price of leaf tobacco,** and thereby made itself a monopoly, controlling within the short space of three years not only an enormous sum of money, but an enormous amount of leaf tobacco, to the detriment of the public in general; and that like associations could be formed under the said act which could control all the agricultural products in the State of North Carolina, the annual value of which amounts to more than half a billion dollars, and that such associations by making contracts and agreements with their other like associations formed in other States, as they are authorized by the said act to do, **could ultimately get under their control such an enormous amount of property and wealth, as would make such associations a menace not only to the State of North Carolina, but to the United States of America."**

The cat is out of the bag. The mask is off of the deceiver. The sheep's clothing is torn off of the wolf. The opponents of coöperative marketing have been forced to admit that they are fighting for their lives because they know coöperative marketing will give the farmer power and wealth and advantages he has never before enjoyed.

What need have we of any further witness?

In the face of these facts, what farmer will henceforth be deceived by charges that coöperative marketing is an impotent thing and can never give him real strength and power? At last the road is so plain that the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein. That they said about tobacco in North Carolina will be said about cotton in every organized cotton state.

Growers who are not members should join their state coöperative association and help to beat down this concerted effort to keep the farmer in a state of helplessness.

NEW YORK FARMERS.

New York Times 11-3-22

The gloomy prediction of Professor EUGENE DAVENPORT, referred to in THE TIMES of Oct. 8, as to the future of the soil, based upon a survey of the food producing possibilities of the farms of the State of Illinois, has unhappy support from a somewhat similar survey in New York. State Service publishes this month a disquieting estimate of farm needs as based upon information gathered by the Bureau of Crop Estimates and the State College of Agriculture.

That the farm folks are fewer in number is not ominous, if it means that they can with greater convenience produce as much or more, regrettable as it may be socially that so many leave the open country for the congested city. While it is difficult for all to find decent places to live in the cities, there are 22,000 vacant habitable houses on the farms. But what gives concern is the fact that the farmers need more capital than they have to keep up their farms and farmhouses and barns, not only for the comfort of those who live on the farm today and for the proper shelter of stock, but for the support of those who must live on this same land and try to get nourishment out of it for generations to come.

The estimate is that a half billion dollars are required for the improvement of farm buildings, for fences, for drainage and, above all, for fertilizer to keep life and continuing strength in the soil. Where is all this to come from, and how is it to be brought to the help of the farmer? The prices for what the farmer produces seem high enough when they reach the consumer, but they are too low when they leave the farmer. Co-operative marketing should be helpful both to the farmer and to the consumer, and also to the future inhabitant of this State, whose farm needs to be kept up by those who are now occupying it. But the problem is deeper than that. Are not the cities asking too much of the farmer and giving back too little? There is a city responsibility. This Atlas of the fields (less than 850,000 persons are living on the farms in this State) bears our urban skyscrapers. He who makes this urban existence possible for half the population ought not to be obliged to live himself under such conditions as will not permit him to keep up his land except at sacrifice of his own well-being and that of his children.

CO-OPERATION SHOWN IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Relations Service Report Outlines Aid Given Station by Department of Agriculture.

ST. PAUL FARMERS DISPATC
DECEMBER 15, 1922

MANY FIELDS ARE COVERED

The close and varied relationships which exist between the United States Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges and experiment stations in agricultural research and education are strikingly brought out in the report of the director of the States Relations Service fo r1922, just issued.

"There is," according to the report, "hardly a branch of agricultural inquiry in which there is not some form of co-operation." Altogether there are now 140 different research projects involving 274 separate co-operative agreements, between the Department and the stations. The general effect of such co-operation has been to make agricultural research more efficient from a national standpoint.

Stations Report Progress.

The report describes in some detail the work of the experiment stations maintained by the department in Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, and shows that these stations are making noteworthy progress in introducing improved farming methods and in developing a more diversified, evenly balanced, and self-sustaining agriculture in these territories.

In the interest of simplicity of administration and unity of program and effort, the co-operative extension work of the department was re-organized during the year. The co-operative relationships of the Department in this work are very wide and very varied. Approximately 4,000 persons are now employed in the co-operative extension service and it is estimated that 2,500,000 fgarms and farm homes were reached through this means during the past year and influenced to attempt better methods. The enrollment of farm boys and girls in club work was 491,000, 59 per cent of whom completed the required work and reported over 7,000,000 worth of club products.

Negro Farmers Benefited.

Especially gratifying progress is reported in the extension work organized for the benefit of the Negro farmers of the South. There are now 270 Negro field agents engaged successfully in this work. As a result of the work, new homes are being built, old ones improved, and orchards, gardens, and live stock are becoming the rule rather than the exception on farms owned by Negroes.

The report shows that the office of home economics has been active during the year in investigations relating to food, clothing, and household equipment and management with special reference to the wise use of agricultural products in the home. The investigations included studies of food habits and requirements of people of different races, sex, and occupation; laboratory studies of cooking and sterilization processes; and measurements by the means of the respiration calorimeter of the energy involved in different household tasks and of the gaseous exchange in the ripening and decay of fruits and vegetables, the latter being of especial value in connection with the cold storage of fruits and vegetabl—

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Improvement of.

THE ELECTRICAL COTTON-PICKER

THIS MACHINE, said to have been suggested to the inventor by the way in which cows lick the cotton out of the boll to get at the seeds, is described in the "Nature and Science" department of *St. Nicholas* (New York), by Miss M. Tevis. Her narrative is a remarkable one, and she begins it with the conventional fairy-tale formula. Once upon a time, she writes, a trespassing cow broke her way into a cotton-field at harvest-time and began feasting on the snowy contents of the opened bolls. She had found out for herself what it took men a long while to discover, that the seeds are nutritious. Doubtless many cows have made the same discovery. But this particular cow happened to be seen by a man with an observant eye and an inventive brain. She goes on:

"Just as multitudes of men, before James Watt came along and set his wits to work upon the problem, had sat cozily by the fire watching the lid of the teakettle bobbing up and down without dreaming of putting the imprisoned giant, Steam, to work at more important things, so, until Mr. L. C. Stuckenborg, a Memphis inventor, saw it, the sight of trespassing cows licking cotton out of the bolls meant nothing to the chance observers. As it happened, he had long been working on the problem involved in substituting some form of mechanical labor for hand labor in the arduous task of cotton-picking. He was struck by the neatness and dispatch with which the cow extracted the cotton; and in thinking it over, he realized that this was owing to the nature of the cow's tongue, which, as every country boy knows, is quite rough, being covered with projections composed of horny cuticle, so that its surface is very much like that of a rasp.

Copyrighted by Underwood & Underwood.

THE ELECTRICAL COTTON-PICKER AT WORK.

'Each machine can pick eight rows in one passage through the field, and the man who operates it needs only a little training, such as can be acquired in a few days, in order to pick four hundred pounds or more a day; whereas the hand-picker averages only from seventy to one hundred and fifty pounds a day."

"But tho this observation gave him the initial idea for his invention, it took some fourteen years of patient experiment and endeavor before he brought it to completion. As it now stands, it consists essentially of two revolving brushes (which pluck the cotton lightly, but cleanly, from the open seed-pod, or boll, as it is called), of a suction system, and of a set of electric motors, together with an electric generator and a switchboard, or 'panel-board.'

"It is the brushes, of course, which play the part of the rough and flexible tongue of the cow. They are enclosed in a small metal frame about as big as your two fists, and they revolve toward each other. When these are placed in contact with the cotton they instantly pull it free, without collecting any part of the boll or leaves of the plant, as a human picker is only too apt to do.

"Connected with the revolving brushes are flexible tubes known as 'picker-tubes,' which carry the cotton by means of suction to the collecting-bags, just as the dust and fluff picked up by a vacuum-cleaner are carried to a collecting-bag."

Just before the cotton drops into the bag, it is cleaned by fanning with a blower. Each machine is mounted on a tractor whose engine provides the electric power to run the eight motors. One of these, which drives the brushes, is suspended about half-way down the suction-tube, while another provides the suction power and also operates the blower. Miss Tevis goes on to give us these further details:

"Each machine can pick eight rows in one passage through the field, and the man who operates it needs only a little training, such as can be acquired in a few days, in order to pick four hundred pounds or more a day; whereas the hand-picker averages only from seventy to one hundred and fifty pounds a day, according to his strength, speed and skill.

"This greater rapidity in harvesting is particularly important in the case of cotton, since it is a crop which ripens gradually, instead of all at one time, like grain. There are three crops of the cotton, in fact, and the process of ripening requires some two months.

"For this reason the 'floating labor,' as we term the great hordes of seasonal laborers who follow the grain crops from south to north, is not available, and the cotton-planter must depend on his hired hands, or on local labor, at best. The great disadvantage of this is that much of the cotton deteriorates in quality because of exposure to wind and dust, sun and rain. Weather-beaten cotton tends to lose its immaculate whiteness and smooth and even fluffiness, becoming soiled and matted together. Hence it brings a lower price than that which is picked as soon as the bolls have opened.

"Hand-picking also tends to mat the fibers into lumps; and because of this, the fibers are often 'gin-cut,' which again lowers the quality, since the longer the fiber, the better it is for spinning purposes, other things being equal.

"It is estimated by good authorities that only one-third of the cotton raised at present is harvested in prime condition, the remainder of the crop being more or less injured by delay in picking and by the admixture of dirt, leaves, and other foreign material, which hand-picking involves.

"In view of these improvements, there is small wonder that enthusiasts are already predicting that the electrical picker will revolutionize the industry."

The old saying that "a child can work it" might be used, Miss Tevis remarks, if it were not for the fact that we do not let the children work as was formerly permitted. The picture opposite shows in a striking way the difference between the hand-picked and machine-picked cotton. Another point is that the machine-picked product yields more of the "cotton-lint," or cleaned fiber, than that picked by hand. A successful demonstration of the machine was recently made near Little Rock, Ark.

Farms Grow In Spite of Handicaps

Southern Farmer Making Progress in Every Phase of Work

Chicago Defender 9-2-22

The recent dedication of the memorial statue to Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee, Ala., on the campus of the Normal and Industrial institute made famous by this successful educator, brings attention not only to the phenomenal growth of this worthy institution, from a few shacks to a property valued at nearly $5,000,000, but to the improved status of Negro education in the South generally, remarks a writer in the Chicago Daily News.

Through the Southern agricultural experiment stations, and agricultural colleges and high schools, the county agricultural and home demonstration agents of the United States department of agriculture and the inspiring community fairs of many states the Southern Negro farmer has in relatively recent years made a gain that speaks well for both the Negro and the institutions aiding him.

Farmers Like Ancestors

The Negro is found extensively engaged in agricultural or related work, largely because his ancestors were farm workers. For this reason the Southern school authorities have given much attention to agricultural and home economics education. However, as in the Tuskegee school, a general vocational training is offered in some of the larger schools, enabling students to become skilled in the trades of their liking.

It has been noted, however, that the percentage of students taking the more advanced work and the percentage of graduates receiving degrees from the institution are comparatively small. Thus, on a recent visit to Fisk university and the Tennessee Agricultuaral and Industrial Normal State school at Nashville a group of officers of the United States department of agriculture urged the Negro students to press on with their work, pointing out the unusual opportunities for graduates to serve as teachers and extension workers among the rural Negro population of the South.

Furthermore, it was urged upon the educational authorities generally having to do with the Negroes of the South that they strengthen the higher schools and colleges so as to turn out more trained teachers and leaders who can successfully carry the gospel of better homes and better farms to the masses of Colored people. The mature Negro farmer has made a splendid response to the elementary education and assistance given to him, often on his own premises by the extension workers, particularly where authoritatively presented by those of his own Race. Therefore, a large opportunity for service is open in this direction.

Excellent Results

Already excellent results have been obtained from the educational efforts tending to diversify crops and interests and a greatly increased stability of production and of Negro independence has been produced in many agricultural communities. Thus, where formerly a failure of their one crop, usually cotton, rendered destitute whole communities of Negroes, often maintaining them in poor circumstances, the better balanced community today will have a number of salable crops and animals to fall back on in case of the failure of cotton, kaffir, tuber, melon or other staple crops.

The agricultural fairs of Louisiana and other states have thus been made up of a surprisingly large variety of crops, prepared foodstuffs and even needlework from the Negro homes, and a keen and commendable rivalry exists among many of the Southern farmers. Modern tools and implements are also evident at these fairs and on the farms and a much better domestic environment is apparent in those sections of the South where the excellent influence of industrial education has penetrated.

The United States agricultural census for 1920 accounts for about 705,000 Negro tenant farmers in the South and 218,000 Negro farm owners, but with the persistent pressure on better education and with the gradual increase in the number of responsible and capable educators among the Negroes themselves the number of Negro farm proprietors should undergo a gradual increase along with the general elevation of the condition of the Negro workers as a class.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEC 15

Agriculture – 1922 Minnesota.

Improvement of

Made Fortune Raising Hogs.

Norfolk Journal & Guide 5/6/22

William Taylor Johnson, twenty-five years a porter on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul's Pioneer limited between Chicago and the twin cities, has managed through a hog farm on the side to amass a comfortable fortune. Johnson's work on the limited requires him to spend two days a week at the Minneapolis end of the line and it is at this point his transformation takes place—he leaves the train and goes to his ranch in Anoka, Minn., twenty-five miles north of Minneapolis.

PHOTO SHOWS—(left to right)—William Taylor Johnson, Mrs. Johnson and Annie D. Johnson, his daughter. Below is seen the farm with Johnson among his herd of prize hogs. He is reputed to be worth between $50,000 and $100,000.—Photo Underwood and Underwood.

Agriculture – 1922

Improvement of

Mississippi

WHAT A COLORED BOY DID UNDER INSTRUCTIONS

Atlanta Constitution 9/2/22

Johnnie [illegible] a young negro boy, son of a tenant on the Delta and Pine Land plantation at Scott, Miss., as related by the plantation farmers:

"On 10 acres he produced an average of 971 pounds of lint cotton per acre. He worked the crop by direction of the plantation manager and found it necessary to make only two applications of calcium arsenate, on July 1 and 11, respectively.

"He planted on April 20 on a fine seed bed and used two bushels of plantation company delinted seed per acre. The crop was chopped out a hoe width apart, with two plants in the hill.

"Good, intense and rapid cultivation made the crop, and the two applications of powder kept the weevil down at the psychological moment so that the bolls could properly mature the staple."

B. J. Young, manager of the Delta Pine Land company's farm operations at Scott, Miss.:

"We made 650 bales of 1 1-4 inches staple on 981 acres, and we did it just as all the other successful farmers do it, for there is no other way in running the race with the weevil—**we start with the cutting of the soil just as early as we can get plows out after Christmas. We make the seed beds right, plant early varieties and cultivate intensely until picking time, never stopping for anything. We drain all** of our cotton lands; **rotate without exception;** keep the soil built up with legumes, and feed just such fertilizer as a particular piece of soil needs to balance it.

"We fight the weevil after the crop is made by keeping the farms clean, our demands upon our tenants being all alike.

"We accept no wishy-washy farming or so-called farming, and we succeed in spite of the weevil. We use the powder when necessary, and are prepared in advance."

A BALE AN ACRE.

Man Holding "Job" Gathers Crop at Odd Times, He Says.

10/11/22

Commercial Appeal

COLDWATER, Miss., Oct. 10.—Grant Berry, negro porter at the Illinois Central Depot here, raised a bale of cotton on one acre of land this year without losing any time from his job. He cultivated the patch after closing time at the depot and all of his picking was done at odd times. The bale weighed 360 pounds, and brought 20 cents a pound.

THIS WRITER rode over a plantation—2,500 acres of delta land—owned by Kelly Brothers in the heart of Quitman county, Mississippi.

Chicago Defender

Kelly Brothers is the firm name, Cicero and Henry being brothers. Two sons of Cicero, Silas and Ishmael, both grown and married, have risen up to car[illegible] on that business.

7-22-22

When you [illegible] a man operates a plantation of [illegible]00 acres of DELTA land you say [illegible]nething worth while. Silas is called a crack manager. That is, he knows [illegible]ow to raise cotton, market it, pick his hands and take care of tenants.

* * *

Kelly Brothers bear an Irish name, but otherwise they belong to you—to the American Colored Race; the only Race native to the U. S. A.

Silas came out of school twenty-five years ago; began to look out from his father's "forty" in Coahoma county, home of the Alcorns, Clarks, Carrs, Dodds and birthplace of Charles Banks.

"This is all right," he said; "since everybody else is trying a hand in this section I think we'll try ours." His father and uncle began to buy and add; add and buy.

Now you can ride hurriedly through their lands and yet spend a good while in your travels.

* * *

Eighty-three tenants work that land. Not a famiy is asked to live in a one-room cabin. Every building on the plantation is respectable. The gin and sawmill, both owned by Kelly Brothers, are a credit to the largest Negro plantation in your greatest farming state.

The place supports a church, maintains a school, operates a baseball park. Holidays the whole countryside, white and Colored, join in having a good time at this park. No fighting goes. Young men and women dress well.

A state highway runs through Kelly Brothers' place. The cattle look to be directly from the thousand hills. Stock is fat and fleet of foot. What is kinder to the heart of a farmer than a pair of good mules? You ought to see Kelly Brothers' mules.

"How about the boll weevil?" asked Silas Kelly of a tenant. This writer listened for bad news.

"All right, Mr. Kelly," replied his tenant. " went through a 'forty' this morning and didn't see a single sinner of them."

Let that keep up, and Colored farmers in Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi will come out on top in October.

That means more young men and women in schools and colleges; better houses next year; more automobiles to ride around in and throw away too soon.

All hope and prosperity are laid in the soil. Your foundation is set in the ground. Do you remember what the Lord said of the earth?

He said it was full of His riches.

Just a little story for you; a little story of Kelly Brothers. Without these men, without others who, like them, till the soil, you would have no hope.

Also, from this little sketch you can see that ALL IS NOT DARK IN DIXIE.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Agriculture — 1922

Florida.

Conditions, and Improvement of

Negro Gardener Produces A New Variety Of Mango

St. Louis Argus-9/22/22

Associated Negro Press

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 20.—Hezekiah Brooks, Negro gardner and fruit grower of Miami, Fla., recently announced the successful conclusion of his attempts to produce a new variety of mango. It is claimed that the result is destined to fill a gap in the fruit calendar of the southern section of the country. This is due to the fact as claimed by Brooks that the fruit ripens between November and January, a period during which the mango is not to be found in that market.

The Brooks Mango is similar to the Mulgoba in appearance and texture, but is declared to be superior to that variety in flavor. Some experts pronounce, it a cross of the Mulgoba and Sundash. Some of the new mangoes have been presented to eminent authorities on horticulture, and some have been sent to the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

Negro Gardner Produces A New Mango

Savannah 9/22/22

Washington, D. C., Sept. 20th (Associated Negro Press)—Hezekiah Brooks Negro gardener and fruit grower of Miami, Fla., recently announced the successful conclusion of his attempts to produce a new variety of mango. It is claimed that the result is destined to fill a gap in the fruit calendar of the Southern section of the country. This is due to the fact as claimed by Brooks that the fruit ripens between November and January, a period during which the mango is not to be found in that market.

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Agriculture-1922.
Condition of.

Why Farmers Move to Town

Hartley, New York City 5-15-1922

WHAT movement or change in our American life will make farmers content to stay in the country? Can we not throw some light on this question by examining the causes for removal to the city? The Country Life Commission appointed by President Roosevelt had this in mind when it made its memorable survey. The following is the result of a recent census in a single community.

This community lies in the Middle West, in the Mississippi Valley, and is as typical an American community as one could find. Settlers began pouring into it in the late twenties and the early thirties, chiefly from Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. They took up immense sections of the rich prairie land, gradually improving their homes and rearing large families. They erected school houses (one of which stands today) and two churches. By 1855 the section was well settled, entirely by American families, and contributed many sons and fathers to the northern side in the civil war. One small village store and post office served for the community. The country church was abandoned for a village church to which the farmers drove their teams on Sunday. Life was settled into definite lines for nearly every family, none were leaving, new ones were coming in.

About 1890 the break-up began. At that time the census covered eighteen substantial families. By 1900 these were scattered to all parts of the United States, mostly in the larger cities of the home state.

The first thing shown by the recent census of this community was most surprising: of the eighteen families, thirteen or some representative of thirteen still lived on the old home place and farmed it, held possibly by the rich loam of that farming section. Of these thirteen families all but two, however, had sent their children away to school and college and in nearly all cases the children had later moved away.

The five families that had left had gone to some city. Investigation showed that in every instance the prime reason for going was a desire to give the children an education. Only one woman gave any other reason for leaving and this was that the farm life lacked "community fellowship."

In the early days the community lacked good roads, telephones, rural free delivery, high schools and churches; although it still lacks the school and church in community form it has the other advantages. Some of the farmers said they would have remained on their farms longer had there been roads, telephones and rural free delivery; but all said that the educational advantages of the city over the country would prevent their returning to the community.

To the question, "What one thing was the main cause for your neighbors' leaving the farm?" some answered, "Lack of community fellowship." To the question, "What main difference do you see between the farmers' life of today and forty years ago?" the answer invariably was, "I walked; now the farmer has an auto." To the question, "What in your opinion would now make farm life more attractive?" the answers are all summed up in this one: "Community center, with diversified amusements." The village which serves this community has not changed in population in fifty years; the older families no longer find their amusements there and are rarely seen in it; the church is dying, almost abandoned; all the families report that their children do not care to stay on the farm but wish to get into some business or profession and live "in town."

There is practically no community life in the sense of community feeling, entertainment or responsibility. But education—or rather the lack of it—is the main complaint of the American farmer. Does the remedy lie in his own hands? Is it being met by the county or township high school or agricultural school? Will the automobile, plus good roads, save America, or shall we go the way of Rome?

Wayne C. Williams.

Mississippi

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Agriculture - 1922
Condition

General

ONE-CROP COUNTIES ARE POOR

Library Digest 3/25/22

THE RICHEST SECTIONS of the country are not those that depend on a single crop, such as wheat or cotton. Specialized crops, such as fruit, tobacco, or even potatoes, and the dairy and poultry industries, figure very largely in the counties where agricultural wealth is highest. Census figures, on which these statements are based, bear out the wisdom of campaigns to bring out diversified agriculture, according to Andrew L. Bostwick, statistician of the Liberty Central Trust Co., of St. Louis, in an analysis printed in *The Globe-Democrat*, (St. Louis). Says Mr. Bostwick:

"Of the leading ten counties seven are in the Pacific States (California and Washington), one is in the Middle West and two are in the East. Los Angeles County, Cal., with a total of nearly $72,000,000, comes first, and Fresno County, in the same State, is second. Fruit, of course, is largely responsible for the enormous agricultural values in these regions.

"Third on the list comes Aroostook County, Me. In value of crops alone this county ranks second in the United States, and by far the greatest part of the value represents potatoes. Lancaster County, Pa., the other Eastern county in the first ten, comes fifth; tobacco, in addition to hay and grain crops, is responsible for the high rank. Dane County, Wis., is the highest Middle West county on the list, being tenth. Dairying is very important; in value of crops alone this county ranks not tenth, but twenty-fifth.

"The richest Illinois county is McLean, the eleventh. The richest one-crop county, and also the richest county in the cotton belt proper, is Bolivar, Miss., in the famous 'delta' section.

"It is interesting to note that of the fifty leaders scarcely more than a dozen belong to the cotton belt. If crops alone were considered, without live-stock products, the result would probably be more favorable to the South.

"In a number of instances the dairy industry has raised individual counties to high standing in value of farm products. St. Lawrence County, N. Y., ranks 108th in value of crops alone, but in the crop and live-stock products list it stands fourteenth. The poultry and egg industry of Sonoma County, near San Francisco, is the cause of that county's rank of eighth in the final list; in value of crops alone it stands forty-second.

"On the whole, the statistics as given present a rather strong argument for a diversified agriculture, with attention to dairying and to such specialized crops as the land and climate may permit."

Old Economic Order In South Is Passing

Atlanta Ga. Constitution

Debacle in Farm Prices of 1920 Sounded Death Knell of Old Agricultural System —Boll Weevil Factor, Too.

4/17/22

By HARVIE JORDAN

Secretary American Cotton Association, in New York Commercial.

Houston, Texas, April 12.—In my trip throughout the entire cotton belt, I find that the farmers are unable to meet their obligations, are compelled to reduce their standard of living, and to strip their communities of the things that make them attractive, causing stagnation in both town and country. The farm population shows a marked decrease, especially during the last two years, and the young people especially, are leaving farms and taking up their residences in the cities and towns. Negro labor is showing an alarming decrease in the agricultural sections, seeking employment in other lines. Over 90 per cent of the cotton belt is now infested with the boll weevil.

I do not think it will be exaggerating to state that there are thousands of vacant farms throughout the cotton producing section of America due to these conditions, which are the outgrowth of an unsold agricultural policy which has been pursued for the last fifty years. After the war between the states, when the negro was set free, he and his white master were immediately required to enter into a struggle for an existence in competition with each other by the production of cheap products, especially cotton.

The old system has broken down. The debacle in prices of farm products since 1920 has wrecked the worn-out system which shackled commercial slavery upon both the white man and negro after the close of the war between the states, and for this entire period has made of the south vassalage territory. The south is either in a death struggle or on the eve of a new birth, and I am convinced that the latter is the case. We are on the eve of a new, more prosperous and greater south. The south will become a great grain-growing, stock-raising and manufacturing center. White farmers from the north and northwest will be attracted to every section of the cotton belt, thus showing an increase, and within the next decade our rural white population will be trebled and quadrupled.

In conference with leading business men, bankers, merchants and farmers throughout the entire south, I find that people are thinking as never before. The statement was made to me over and over that the old order of things is passing away; that it has served its day and generation.

Even were scientific methods discovered today for eradicating the boll weevil, it would be impossible for the south to produce a full cotton crop. The assets necessary for the production of cotton have been depleted to a greater extent within the last two years than in any similar period during the last half century. The south, like the other agricultural sections of America, is loaded with a tremendous inflated debt incurred for the production of the crops of 1920 and 1921, and this burden alone means the certainty of a short production and a complete change. Two billion three hundred million dollars is a stupendous sum, and yet this is what the south lost, based upon the cost of production of the last two cotton crops. It is in proportion to the twelve billions of dollars lost by the agricultural producers of America based upon the cost of producing the last two crops and the selling price.

The remedy to these conditions is to change the old, worn-out, haphazard system. The people of the south realize they cannot continue same and that they must place agriculture upon a strictly economical business basis. No longer will they plant in faith, reap in hope and market by accident. Diversified agriculture is a certainty. The producers must secure a price for their products on a level which will enable them to receive cost of production plus a reasonable profit. The fact that the agricultural producers of America and the various lines of industry that extended credits for the production of the crops of 1920 and 1921 are in the same predicament as the people of the south means the absolute certainty that these conditions are going to be changed for the better, and no section will show a greater change for the better than the south.

For the present year, even with ideal seasons, we are facing the certainty of a small cotton crop. With adverse seasons, common sense plainly dictates the certainty of a record-breaking short crop, a crop even much smaller than the record-breaking small cotton crop of 1921. The law of cause and effect can have no other result.

The world has been sick. Some months ago it stepped from its sick bed. It has passed through its convalescent stage. The world will have an abnormal appetite for food and clothing. From whence will these supplies come? While the world was sick supplies exceeded demand. Now that the world is returning to health and vigor, demand will exceed supplies, which will mean famine supplies, famine prices and the consumer will pay the penalty.

Agriculture—1922

Georgia

Condition of

Athens Prepares for State Conference on Markets

Atlanta Constitution 1/16/22

Athens, Ga., January 15.—The Georgia Markets conference, which meets at the State College of Agriculture January 23-28, promises to be the most important convention of its kind ever staged in the state of Georgia.

It is known that several hundred of Georgia's prominent business men, bankers, and farmers will be in attendance at the conference which will bring to Georgia a galaxy of distinguished speakers, such as have never before been gathered together at one time.

A feature of the conference announced by Dr. A. M. Soule, which will make the conference of even more value to the delegates attending it, is the exhibits that are to be held in the animal husbandry building on the college campus.

At this exhibit, will be specimens of improved agricultural products, including apples, cotton, wheat, peas, etc., from all over the United States. Already the college employees have begun receiving shipments of exhibits from as far away as California and it is thought that when the building is opened January 23 for the conference, it will rival the exhibit buildings of many of the largest fairs ever staged in the south.

Special Committee.

The following special committee was appointed Monday by President Soule to hav charge of the exhibit part of the program: Marketing, M. C. Gay; horticulture, G. H. Diror; woman's work, Lois Dowdle; agronomy, Paul Tarbor; cotton industry, R. R. Childs; animal husbandry, C. K. Kellogg; dairying, F. W. Fitch; poultry husbandry, J. H. Wood; meat and food exhibits, Dr. A. G. Richardson.

In discussing the coming conference with reporters Monday morning, Dr. Soule stated, "A special invitation is extended to the officers and members of all farmers' organizations, state and federal agencies and local institutions to send delegates to the conference."

Continuing he said: "The farmers of Georgia are faced by one of the most difficult situations they have ever confronted. There has been a radical reduction in the price of all farm crops without a corresponding drop in the manufactured goods and supplies which the farmer has had to purchase. As a result an undesirable stagnation in trade and industry has arisen.

"What can be done to mitigate this situation? It constitutes one of the big and vital problems affecting the progress and happiness of all our people at this time. It would appear that something worthwhile could be accomplished through the medium of a conference at which the various issues involved in the production, transportation, distribution and successful marketing of the crops grown by our farmers could be discussed and considered in detail.

Open to All.

"To that end the Georgia State College of Agriculture has issued a call for a meeting of this character. The dates selected are January 23 to 27 inclusive. A most varied and instructive program has been prepared. Every effort has been made to have the several questions involved taken up and considered in a practical and efficent manner so that the basic facts involved may all be elucidated and coordinated for the benefit and guidance of all concerned during the year 1922.

"This conference is open to everyone. A cordial invitation is extended to all classes of our citizens to join therein. A special invitation is extended to the officers and members of all farmers' organizations, state and federal agencies and local institutions to send delegates to this conference.

"The representatives of these various forces are urged to actively help in the formulation of a program for 1922 worthy of the cause and the occasion. It is hoped to make the meeting so informal that all who have suggestions to offer may have an opportunity to be heard. It is the intention and plan of those associated with this enterprise to get together all the data presented, put it in tangible form and distribute it as widely as possible throughout the state in the hope of giving a new and quickening impulse to our agriculture and the industries dependent theron."

The program of the week's session of the conference follows:

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1922.
Afternoon Session.
3 P. M.

Invocation—Dr. J. C. Wilkinson, pastor First Baptist church, Athens, Ga.

"The Economic Situation"—Dr. Andrew M. Soule, president Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

4 P. M.

"The Country Bankers' Interest in Marketing"—Hon. J. W. Vaughan, president Bank of Cartersville, Cartersville, Ga.

Discussion led by Hon. John J. Wilkins, president Georgia National bank, Athens, Ga.

Evening Session.
8 P. M.

"Handlin Farm Credits"—Hon. Haynes McFadden, secretary Georgia Bankers' association, Atlanta, Ga.

Round table discussion of credit problems by visitors and county agents, led by Dr. David C. Barrow, chancellor of the University of Georgia.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1922.
Morning Session.
9 A. M.

"Co-operative Marketing" — Hon. Loyd S. Tenny, assistant chief bureau of agricultural economics, United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

General discussion led by Hon. R. H. Black, manager of the Consolidated Apple Growers' Exchange, Cornelia Ga., and J. J. Parrish, manager of Southwest Georgia Watermelon Growers' association, Adel, Ga.

11 A. M.

Address—Hon. Thomas W. Hardwick, governor of Georgia.

Afternoon Session.
3 P. M.

"Marketing Grains and Hay"—Hon. K. B. Seeds, grain supervisor United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Discussion led by Hon. C. H. Kittrell, Dublin, Ga.

Demonstration and exhibits of grain and hay, prepared by Professor Paul Tabor, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

Official government grain standards will be on exhibit.

Evening Session.
8 P. M.

"The Fertilizer Situation"—Professor J. N. Harper, director of soils improvement committee, Southern Fertilizer association, Atlanta, Ga.

Round table discussion by visitors and county agents led by Professor J. Phil Campbell, director of extension, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1922.
Morning Session.
9 A. M.

"Marketing Cotton"—Hon. David R. Coker, Hartsville, S. C.

11 A. M.

"The Producer's Relationship to the Cotton Manufacturer"—Dr. L. G. Hardman, chairman executive committee, board of trustees, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Commerce, Ga.

Cotton exhibit, prepared by Professors R. R. Childs and F. C. Ward, in charge of cotton industry, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

Afternoon Session.
3 P. M.

"The Function of the Commercial Distribution Agency"—Hon. B. C. Moomaw, Jr., North American Fruit Exchange, New York.

General discussion led by R. S. Roddenberry, president of the Georgia Sweet Potato Storage House association, Moultrie, Ga.

Demonstrations in grading, packing and carloading, conducted by Professors T. H. McHatton, George H. Firor and Elmo Ragsdale, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga. Special freight and refrigerator cars will be placed on the side tracks at the college for these demonstrations, through the courtesy of the Central of Georgia Railway company.

Evening Session.
8 P. M.

"Co-operative Marketing of Farm Crops"—Dr. Clarence Poe, editor Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

Round table discussion led by Hon. G. Fred Hunnicutt, editor The Southern Cultivator, Atlanta, Ga.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1922.
Morning Session.
9 A. M.

"Marketing Sour Cream"—Dr. Milton P. Jarnagin, professor of animal husbandry, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

Discussion by C. H. Bishop, general manager of the Ashburn Creamery, Ashburn, Ga., and G. W. Humphrey, dairy specialist, Southern Railway company, Atlanta, Ga.

Demonstrations and exhibits, prepared by Professors L. H. Marlatt, F. W. Fitch and F. W. Bennett, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

11 A. M.

"Marketing Problems of the General Farmer"—Professor M. C. Gay, in charge of educational marketing, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

Round table discussion by visitors and county agents.

Afternoon Session.
3 P. M.

"Observations From Abroad"—Miss Ola B. Powell, state relations service, Washington, D. C.

4 P. M.

"Co-operative Marketing Among Farm Women"—Miss Susie V. Powell, state agent, Mississippi.

Discussion led by Miss Mary E. Creswell, director of home economics Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

Demonstrations and exhibits in marketing farm women's products, prepared by Miss Lois P. Dowdle and Mrs. Bessie Stanley Wood, assistant state agents, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

DR. A. M. SOULE.

THE HOME PRODUCT.

Atlanta Constitution 1/15/22

The average southern farmer is hoping in a blind, pathetic sort of way that things will turn for the better.

In the meantime that the state is overlooking a golden opportunity by not living more closely at home is brought out quite forcibly in the report of W. R. Crites, secretary of the Millen and Jenkins county chamber of commerce.

Prior to making his report, Mr. Crites made an exhaustive canvass of the stores in his community in an effort to find out some of the things which are holding back Georgia development. What he found reveals a situation which, if not alarming, is at least exceedingly suggestive.

Mr. Crites shows what we are buying and where our money is going.

Comprehensive as is this list, Mr. Crites adds that "there is not one single item in it which could not be produced in Georgia."

Here is what we are buying from a distance—

"Peas from Maine and Maryland; beans from Michigan, New York and California; sweet corn from Maine, New York and California potatoes, from Maine; sweet potatoes, from Maryland and New Jersey; tomato catsup, from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Indiana; pickles, "57 varieties," from Pittsburg; peaches, from California; with a country overflowing with Georgia cane syrup at anything from 25c a gallon up, we are paying a high price for corn syrup from New York; with 20,000,000 surplus bushels of corn, we are buying grits, lye hominy, cornmeal and corn starch from Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York; English walnuts, from California; tomatoes, from California and New York; sauer kraut, from New York; vegetable soups, from Indiana; red beets, from Maine; honey, from New York and California; apple jelly from Missouri and Maryland; peanut butter, from New York; peanuts, from Virginia; tobacco, from all over the world; soap, from Cincinnati, made from our own cotton seed oils; mules, from Kentucky and Missouri; cereals, from Michigan, Ohio and Illinois; cheese, from Wisconsin and New York; rice, from New Orleans, China and Japan; brooms, from Florida, Alabama and Ohio; apples, from New York, Oregon and Washington; matches, from Ohio and Michigan; pimentoes, from Spain and New York; meats, all kinds, from Chicago and South America; sausage, from Green Bay, Wis.; crackers, from Virginia; ginger ale, from Wisconsin and New York; grape-

juice, from California and New Jersey; vinegar, from Virginia; condensed milk, from California and Washington; oysters from Maryland and New Jersey; hay, from the central states; cotton goods, from Massachusetts, Georgia cotton coming back to us with three or four profits and exorbitant freight rates added over and above what we receive for it on a speculator's market; woolen goods, that should be made of wool from Georgia-raised sheep; furniture, from Michigan and Pennsylvania, made from southern lumber, and there are still other items in the list."

With chambers of commerce like that of Millen and Jenkins counties, pointing the way to the farmer, to the business man, and to the consumer, long strides can quickly be taken to convert depression into prosperity.

The farmer insists on relying chiefly on cotton as his money crop, because he lacks a ready market for all his crops save cotton.

In the south there is an abundance of chickens, eggs, cows butter, milk, hogs, corn, syrup, apples, sweet and Irish potatoes. But comparatively a small part of these products are being shipped to the north and west.

Why?

Simply because we are permitting growers of the same products in other states to force their products over ours because they know better how to market them.

The average farmer, say, will raise ten or twelve head of hogs for market. It has been proven that the only way in which hogs can be marketed profitably is in carload lots and it seems logical that farmers in each neighborhood would get together for such shipments. But this has been done in only a very limited way because the farmers have not as yet been made to see, in actual dollars and cents, the value of co-operation.

Take the sweet potato, the Georgia yam, as an interesting illustration of the possibilities for marketing southern products. This luscious vegetable is scarcely known in the north and west. Out of a total crop of 103,000,000 bushels of these potatoes grown in the south last year only 5,000,000 bushels were sold beyond its borders.

James C. Young, in The New York Times. tells this story of the "yellow yam" and its possibilities.

"An Iowa recruit sent to a Georgia training camp during the war acquired a taste for the yellow yam. He carried that taste with him to France and back to his home town in Iowa. There he told his people about southern sweet potatoes until they got the urge and a carload was shipped from Georgia. That first car was followed by twenty-nine others during the year, and the Iowa recruit is in a fair way to become the south's first sweet potato broker. It is almost beyond question that a fortune awaits the pioneer in this trade. The yam, like cotton, can be grown in the south to better advantage than anywhere else. And the place has been reached where cotton farming is a hazardous enterprise. The farmers must turn to something else for a large part of their revenue."

Let us take the case of the bean.

Sometime ago The Constitution published an interesting statement from Scott Allen, manager of the great chain of grocery stores of the L. W. Rogers company, in which Mr. Allen stated that while he would much prefer to spend in Georgia the thousands of dollars being sent by his company monthly to California, he had of necessity to give preference to beans from there simply because California knew how to prepare and market beans grown there while Georgia did not.

In California the beans are carefully winnowed, then cleaned, graded and classified. They are put in neat boxes, attractively labeled, and then they are ready for market.

The Georgia bean is as good as the California bean but it is not put up that way.

The result is that Georgia is sending out of the state every year thousands of dollars for beans no better than those grown right here.

And the same thing applies to other farm products that can be raised as well in Georgia as in any other state.

The Millen and Jenkins county chamber of commerce, and Mr. Crites, have set an example that other counties in Georgia might follow with profit.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Agriculture — 1922

Labor Conditions.

Peonage (Ga.) Williams' Farm.

NEW TRIAL IN PEONAGE CASE NOT GRANTED

Atlanta Georgian

Williams' Appeal Pending Before Georgia Supreme Court Since April, Following Conviction

1/13/22

Planter Was Found Guilty of Negro's Death and Was Indicted in Death of Others

The Georgia Supreme Court affirmed Thursday the life sentence imposed upon John S. Williams, wealthy planter of Jasper and Newton Counties, who was convicted in connection with the deaths of negro tenants on his farm.

The appeal for a new trial has been pending in the Supreme Court since last April, when it was filed by Greene F. Johnson, of Monticello, Ga., leading counsel for Williams. Attorney Johnson asked for a new trial on the grounds that the evidence introduced in the case did not warrant a verdict of guilty, and that the principal witness for the State, Clyde Manning, negro foreman for Williams on the plantation, was jointly indicted with Williams, and therefore was not eligible to testify.

Williams was convicted before Judge John B. Hutcheson on April 9, 1921, for the murder of one Lindsey Peterson, who, according to the testimony of Manning, had been tied by the planter and thrown into the Yellow River in Newton County. Besides being indicted for this murder, Williams was also indicted for the murder of ten other negroes, all workers on his farm. The negroes for whose death he was indicted were: Johnnie Williams, Fletcher Smith, John Brown, Charley Chisholm, "Blackstrap," Henry Price, "Big John," Willie Preston, Johnny Greene and Willie Givens.

Williams' trial in Newton County for the murder of Peterson attracted nation-wide attention. The bodies of some of the negroes were found in the Yellow River, tied hand and foot, with heavy rocks about their necks. Others were found in graves on the Williams plantation, their heads having been split with axes, and others had been shot with heavy buckshot.

The defense attempted to prove that Williams had no motive in killing his negro employees, and scored the testimony of federal agents that Williams feared he might be prosecuted for peonage on the evidence of these negroes.

Clyde Manning the negro "boss," chief witness for the States, testified as to how the crimes were committed, going over in detail each death. He admitted having killed some of the victims, but asserted that he was coerced into doing so by threats against his own life.

JOHN S. WILLIAMS LEAVES TO BEGIN HIS PRISON TERM

Atlanta Constitution

2/22/22

John S. Williams, Jasper county farmer, convicted a year ago for murder, following an investigation into conditions on his alleged "murder farm," will begin serving his life sentence Thursday at the state prison farm at Milledgeville. He was sent there from the Fulton Tower Wednesday.

Williams maintained his innocence as he bade the Tower farewell. In a lengthy statement he called attention to the fact that he had not been given a trial in his home county, but had been tried in Newton county.

"I feel in my heart that the jury was unduly influenced by prejudice, sensationalism and publicity. I believe that with a new trial I would have been acquitted.

"I have never had any trouble before in my life, and now more steadily than ever assert my innocence and pray to Almighty God that the great wrong done me may be undone so that I may once more be with my dear wife, daughter and sons, to live my life in the midst of my friends in Jasper county."

After the Georgia supreme court had refused to grant Williams a new trial the prisoner urged his attorney, Greene Johnson, to take the appeal to the United States supreme court. Last Saturday the attorney informed his client that there was no ground for an appeal to the federal tribunal, and he at once made preparations for beginning his imprisonment.

Georgia's 'Congo' Slave Tells Thrilling Story of His Escape

Chicago Defender

2/4/22

Bell, since stumbling through the dense woods of Georgia to a freer world, has had many queer experiences. He was practically living in a new world.

"I felt so good," Bell said, "that I didn't know what to do. When I was walking the streets in Columbus I would often look back to see if 'Mister Johnny' was following me. Once I saw a man who looked like him, and I got so scared I didn't know what to do."

Sam Bell

During Sam Bell's escape federal agents were searching for him for the purpose of having him testify against Williams at the trial in Covington. Manning, the tool of Williams, had given the information that Bell knew as much as he did about the murders, but had not committed any. In telling of his subsequent flight from Georgia Bell said:

Porter Gives Aid

"The railroad porter that had done me so many kind favors told me it was best that I leave Georgia. He had me meet him one night at the station and gave me a lunch, some old clothes and a little money. He told me to keep it a secret and he would get me out that night. When the train got ready to go he told the fireman to bank the coal high in the back of the coal car, because he was going to put me on the car next to the engine and that it would serve to hide me from the view of the engineer.

"I rode all that night until daybreak the next morning. The porter came to me and said I would have to get off and walk into the next town and then go for myself. He said I might get arrested if they saw me riding there. I got off and walked about 10 miles and found that I was in Atlanta. I didn't stay there long. I decided that I would try to ride another train the same way he had told me. Two days after that I was in Birmingham, Ala. When I got there I was weak and hungry. The last lunch I had was on the 10-mile walk into Atlanta. I asked a man at an eat shop to let me do some work for him. He made me wash dishes, but said that he would feed me and pay me when I got through.

Ate "Left-Overs"

"I couldn't wait much longer, but I didn't tell him. Some of the people would eat and leave something on the plate. When they would reach me to clean off, I would eat what they had left. I soon got full and felt much better. That night the man paid me. It was more money than I had had in a long time. He gave me $1.15.

"When I was hanging around Birmingham a man asked me what I could do. I told him I was a farmer. He told me I ought to go to Kansas because it was a good place to work. I asked him how I would get there. He told me as best he could. I asked him to point where Kansas was and he did. That night I caught the first train going the way he pointed. I didn't get to Kansas, but I got to Nashville' Tenn. I kept catching trains going further. I rode a long while and I thought I had reached Kansas, but a man told me I was in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sees Defender Story

"I kept catching trains that I thought were going in the direction that the man in Birmingham had pointed until I landed in Gary, Ind. I decided to stop because I thought he had fooled me and there was no such place as Kansas. I slept anywhere I could while I was there and hung around pool rooms. One day I saw a paper with 'Mister Johnny's' picture on it in a barber shop window. I looked at it for a long while. I asked a fellow to read what it said, and he did. (The matter referred to was the trial and conviction of Williams printed in the Chicago Defender.)

Bell began to tell his story and an insurance agent brought him to Chicago to the Defender office without delay. Bell, after being told that he was in the hands of his friends, related his story with apparent ease. Federal agents were summoned and a verbatim report was made, which is now in the hands of the Department of Justice. Bell is now in Chicago, having obtained a position through the aid of the Chicago Urban League.

JOHN S. WILLIAMS DENIED NEW TRIAL

Attorney Has Not Yet Decided Whether or Not He Will Continue Fight for His Client.

Atlanta Constitution

1/13/22

Following the decision of the supreme court Thursday denying a new trial to John S. Williams, owner of the "Jasper county murder farm," Greene F. Johnson, attorney for Williams, stated Thursday night that he has not yet definitely decided whether the case will be further contested.

"The supreme court is the highest tribunal which can pass upon the case," said Mr. Johnson. "It can not be appealed to the federal courts, for there is no question of constitutionality involved. The only further recourse is to appeal for a new hearing, and I can not say whether this will be our course until I study the test of the decision of Thursday."

Willimas, who was convicted in Newton county last April of murder in connection with the killing of 11 negro farm hands in his employ, must serve a life term in the state penitentiary, the supreme court Thursday handing down a decision affirming the verdict of a Newton county jury in the case and upholding the ruling of Judge John B. Hutcheson, of the Stone Mountain circuit, in overruling a motion for a new trial filed by Williams' attorneys.

Williams was convicted on the evidence given by Clyde Manning, his negro farm boss, who was indicted jointly with Williams in Newton county for the murder of Lindsey Peterso and Willie Preston, two of the negroes who were killed. According to Manning's story, the two negroes were drowned, together with a third negro, Harry Price, in the Yellow river last March. The bodies of the negroes were found on the Newton county side of the river, about ten miles from Williams' farm, which is located in Jasper county.

Attracts Much Attention.

When the case was tried at Covington in April it attracted wide attention throughout the entire country. Williams was represented by Attorney Green B. Johnson, of Monticello, as chief counsel, and Attorney C. C. King, of Covington, and Attorney W. H. Key, of Monticello. The state was represented by Solicitor-General A. M. Brand, of the Stone Mountain circuit. Solicitor Brand was assisted by former Congressman William H. Howard, of Augusta, who was employed at the direction of former Governor Hugh M. Dorsey, and by Graham Wright, former assistant attorney-general.

The story of the killing of the 11 negroes forms one of the r
some incidents in the crimi
of Georgia. The negroes k
all former prisoners in the
at Macon and Atlanta. Their fines were paid by Williams and his three sons, Marvin, Huland and LeRoy Williams, and were taken to Jasper county to work out the amount of the fines on the farm of Williams and h sons.

Last February, federal agents of department of justice, George Brown and A. J. Wismer, bega investigation of peonage c against Williams. They visit farm in Jasper county and inte several of the negro farm han er, 11 of the negroes disappear the farm. Late in March the of two negroes, Willie Prest Linsey Peterson, were found Yellow river chained together. vestigation was begun and Clyd ning was arrested as an acco Manning told his story to the agents and to Sheriff B. L. Jo of Newton county. Manning c that he had helped kill and dro negroes and that he did so at t rection of Williams, who was when all were killed. He s could point out where all the could be found.

Manning Tells Story.

Accompanied by federal age the Newton county sheriff, went to Williams' farm and ou where three negroes ha killed by crushing their sku an axe. He then took them fi distant to a farm operated by Williams, and pointed out t graves. In one was found t of a negro who had been tol a well and when he reached depth was struck in the he axe wielded by Charlie

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

th direction of Williams, it is claimed, Chisholm was one of the negroes who was later drowned. Manning then took the officers to the Yellow river, where four bodies were found, and then to the Alcovey river, where two other bodies were found, making a total of 11 in all.

The negroes killed were Johnnie Williams, John Brown and Johnnie Green, who mere killed with an axe in the pasture in front of Williams' house; "Big John," killed while digging his own grave; Fletcher Smith, who was shot by Williams, according to Manning's story, and Willie Preston, Lindsey Peterson, Harry Price, Willie Givens, "Little Bit" and Charley Chisholm, who were drowned in the Yellow river and the Alcovey river.

In his appeal for a new trial, Attorney Johnson claimed that the story of Manning was not admissible as evidence, as he was an accomplice. It was also contended that Manning's evidence as to the killing of other negroes besides Peterson and Preston was not admissible at the trial, as it tended to establish the commission of distinct and independent crimes not contained in the indictment under which Williams was being tried. Twenty-five specifications were filed in the bill.

The supreme court held that there was evidence to authorize the verdict of the jury and that the trial judge did not err in refusing a new trial. All of the justices of the supreme court concurred in the decision.

Clyde Manning later was tried at Covington on the same indictment returned against Williams and was convicted and given a life sentence. He was defended by Attorney E. Marvin Underwood, of Atlanta. Both Williams and Manning have been held in the Fulton county tower pending a decision on appeals filed in their cases. The supreme court has not yet acted on the appeal filed in Manning's case.

Attorney Johnson, who represents Williams, was not in Monticello Thursday and no statement could be obtained from him as to the future course he will take in the case.

John S. Williams slave plantation in Newton and Jasper counties, and a new trial was ordered. 7/10/22

Manning, now serving a life sentence, danced with joy when the news was brought to him in prison. He said: "Mister Johnny knows I didn't want to kill those poor men. He told me to do it, and I just couldn't help it." Williams, denied a new trial, is serving a life term in prison. Several attempts have been made to have a rehearing of his case, but the higher courts refused him a new trial.

Jurors Blamed

The entire country scored the jurors for giving Williams such a minor sentence and placing the same punishment on Manning. Attorneys for Manning, in their arguments, contended that their client was simply a tool in the hands of the white man and was forced to perform the gruesome acts. Failure to do so, Manning said, would have meant his own death.

Manning is densely ignorant, cannot read or write, and has never received over $2 a month for working on the Williams plantation. It was through his testimony that Williams was sent to prison. When Mannings' trial was called it was expected that he would be acquitted. However, the prejudice was so great against him, and the jury was selected from Southern farmers, that a conviction came within a few minutes after the jurors retired for conference.

Sons at Large

Little effort has been made to apprehend the three sons of Williams, who escaped during the visit of the federal agents to the plantation. It is the belief here that they are still in Georgia, and within a few miles of their former home.

Persons of both races contributed money to employ counsel for Manning when he went to trial. It has been such support that resulted favorably for the unfortunate man.

HOPE LOOMS FOR GEORGIA MAN-KILLER

State Supreme Court Gives Clyde Manning Chance to Prove Himself Innocent

Chicago Defender

Atlanta, Ga., April 14.—The Georgia supreme court Tuesday reversed the conviction of Clyde Manning, confessed "executioner" on the

NEGRO ON TRIAL IN PEONAGE CASE

Atlanta Georgian 7-27-22

COVINGTON, Ga., July 26.—The final chapter in the famous Williams' murder farm case, so far as Newton County is concerned, was being written Wednesday as the case of the State vs. Clyde Manning, negrof arm boss charged with murder, was in progress. This is Manning's second trial, having been convicted of murder here in May, 1921, and sentenced by Judge John B. Hutcheson to life imprisonment upon the jury's recommendation of mercy. His attorney's appealed for a new trial, and when Judge Hutche-

SAVANNAH GA NEWS
JUNE 29, 1922

Nonsense About the Negroes.

Columbia State: A dispatch from Newark New Jersey, to the New York Evening Post, reports that the Reverend R. H. Singleton, pastor of the largest negro church in Atlanta, describes operation in Georgia "of a modern underground railroad by which refugees are received from peonage farms and camps in Georgia and are secreted in Atlanta." This negro asserts that "to his personal knowledge there are five or six such underground stations which function exactly as they did when slaves escaped northward before the Civil War."

That is a gloomy story from darkest Georgia and one supposes that it will be swallowed by some of the people who read it. Singleton was addressing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The State does not presume to speak for Georgia, but wherever is a negro in South Carolina who wishes to escape northward are hundreds of white people glad to extend encouragement to him. Not in this part of the country has protest been raised against the migrations of colored people to Northern states and the State wishes that every negro in South Carolina in the least discontented with his surroundings and political condition would go and speedily to Ohio, where he might vote for a negro candidate for governor.

No one is trying to hold the negroes in the South. The tale that Singleton told in Newark is preposterous. The reason that millions of negroes do not go northward is that they are not given employment on equal terms with white men when they arrive and in the industries are subjected to severe discrimination. The dispersion of the Southern negroes throughout the United States would be excellent in its results on the South and the people of the South, even those of Georgia, well understand it.

It seems that an Atlanta negro speaking to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People can stuff it with any kind of non

son overruled the motion, his case was carried to the Supreme Court, and a new trial was granted.

Manning was the state chief witness against John S. Williams, convicted of the murder of one of his farm hands, and now serving sentence of life imprisonment at the state farm.

His vivid account of the wholesale murders committed by Williams, his employer, and his own part in the killings, startled the country. In his first trial and also in the trial of Williams, the negro freely admitted his part in the killings, but declared that he was forced by his employer, saying that Williams threatened to kill him if he did not kill the other negroes.

In striking contrast to his first trial, the negro's second trial is attracting no unusual attention.

Officials Probing Report Williams Visited His Home

Atlanta Constitution 8-8-22

Covington Newspaper Says He Was Allowed to Attend Barbecue on "Murder" Farm.

Considerable interest was attached here Saturday to the probable outcome of an investigation being conducted by the state prison commission to charges recently published in a Covington newspaper that John S. Williams, Jasper county "murder farm boss," under life sentence, was allowed to leave the state prison farm and attend a family reunion and barbecue in Jasper county on Sunday two weeks ago today.

The item from the Covington paper of recent date charging that the "murder farm" owner was back in his old haunts was drawn to the attention of Judge E. L. Rainey, of the prison board, who several days ago stated that he had no definite information on the subject, but would immediately start an investigation.

It was understood that the probe was to have been completed by Saturday, but members of the prison commission were either in Brunswick or with the state legislative party or out of the city on business and no report was made.

It is expected that announcement of the results of the investigation will be made public early this week.

Permitted Boss Of Murder Farm To Visit Family

Atlanta Constitution 8-16-22

Superintendent of the State Prison Explains Williams' Visit to Jasper.

John S. Williams, Jasper county "murder farm" boss who is now serving a life sentence at the state prison farm, was allowed to visit his home recently, it was admitted by Superintendent Dunaway, of the farm, before the state prison commission Tuesday morning. Mr. Dunaway said that Williams was acting as his chauffeur at the time and pleaded ignorance of the rule which forbids prisoners leaving the farm without express permission from the prison commission. His explanation was accepted by the commission.

The superintendent explained that the trip in question was purely business in nature, and that, as Williams is one of the most valuable men on the farm, he thought it entirely regular for him to utilize the prisoner's services in the capacity of chauffeur.

The trip, out of which grew criticism of the superintendent in a Covington paper, had three objects, said Mr. Dunaway. He made it to complete arrangements for obtaining some seed wheat, to exchange some hogs for another breed and to get some burr clover seed, Mr. Dunaway stated.

He explained further that Williams was allowed to see his wife and daughter at his home. The Covington paper charged that there had been a reunion of the family and that a big picnic was held, which Williams attended. This was denied by the superintendent, who stated that the prisoner only saw two members of his family, his wife and daughter. He said also that the prisoner was not allowed to leave his sight.

Although there is a rule that allows no prisoner to leave the farm, the superintendent who has been in charge of the farm only a few months, claimed that he was conscious of no irregularity in taking Williams into Jasper county.

Williams is serving sentence on the farm for the murder of six negroes, most of the murders occurring in Jasper county last year. He is said by the superintendent to be one of the most valuable men on the prison farm. Mr. Dunaway explained that Williams takes a personal interest in the farm, and that, as he was a very successful farmer before coming to serve sentence, his services are of the highest order. He spends most of the days with his hands on the plow-handles, he said.

The commission accepted the explanation of the superintendent and fixed no charges against him either for committing irregularities or failing to carry out the rules of the farm. It considered the fact that he is comparatively new in his present position as explanation for allowing the prisoner to leave the farm. Mr. Dunaway appeared much concerned that his actions had been misunderstood by anyone.

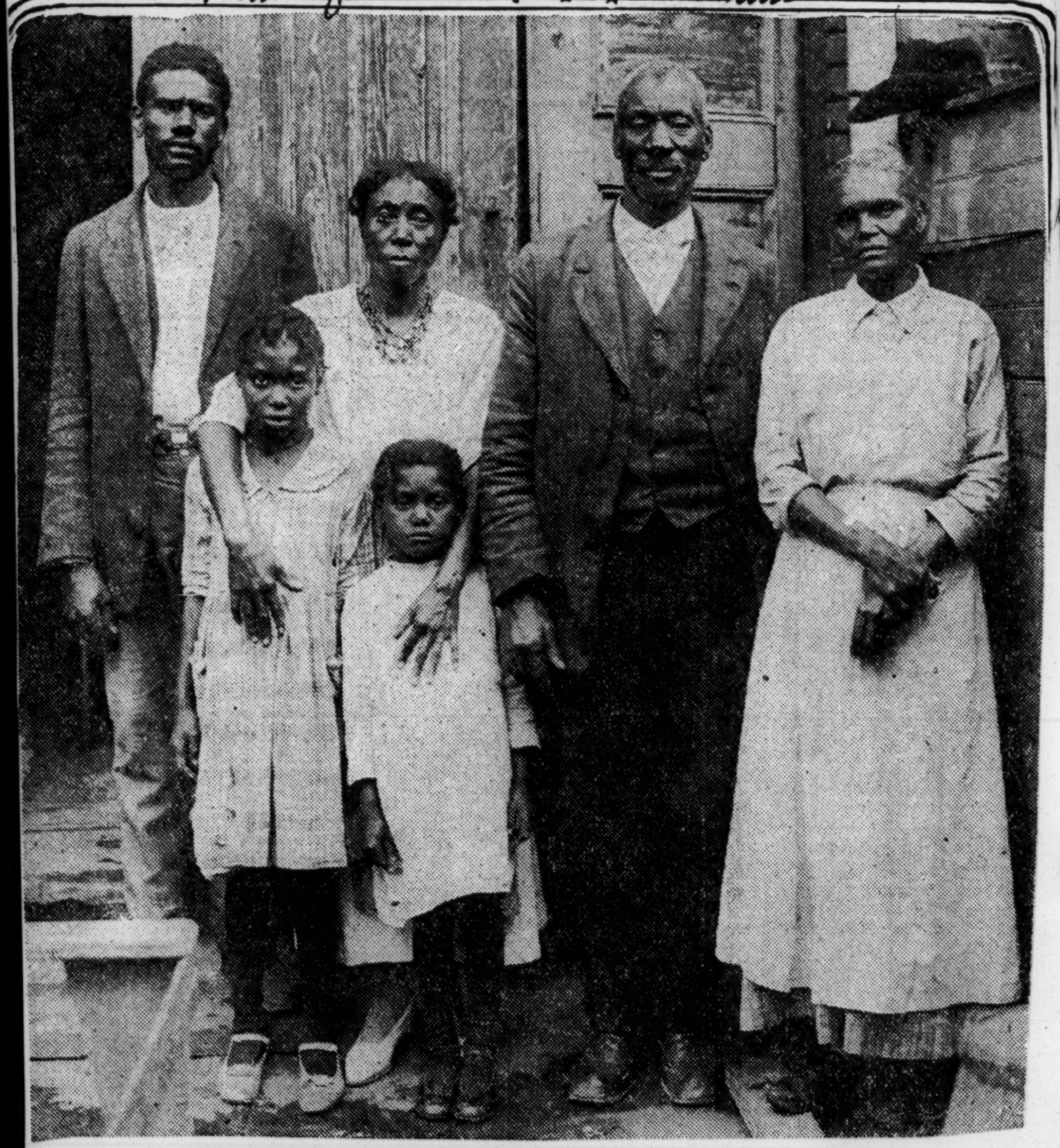
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Agriculture – 1922
Labor Conditions

Governor Dorsey's Pamphlet. Peonage (Ga.)

After having their home set afire three times, this family, typical of residents of the farm section, fled to another state for safety. They had committed no offense, only incurred the wrath of the neighboring whites by their prosperity and industriousness.

Chicago Defender 4/1/22



A victim of the South's court system. This man, no matter how industrious, must be careful to avoid a court trial.

The class of citizens the Southern white man prides in calling "Uncle." If the old man should ask: "Are we related?" he would be killed for being "sassy."

Chicago Defender 4/1/22

A typical group of "law administrators" in a Southern town. These men formed part of the jury that recommended mercy for John S. Williams, Jasper county murder fiend, who slew over 50 persons. The entire country turned their "thumbs down" on the action of this jury.

Escaping from Georgia civilization.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Agriculture — 1922
Labor Conditions
Peonage (Georgia)

ATLANTA GA EVE JOURNAL
PRIL 11, 1922

CLYDE MANNING IS GIVEN NEW TRIAL

Clyde Manning, the negro convicted as an accomplice of John S. Williams in the famous murder farm in Newton county two years ago, and sentenced to life imprisonment, was granted a new trial Tuesday by the supreme court of Georgia.

Wlliams was indicted on several charges of murder growing out of his alleged killings of numerous negro peons on his farm in Jasper county. One of these indictments was returned by the grand jury of Newton county, charging him with the murder of Lindsey Peterson, a negro whose body was found on the Newton county side of the Yellow river, which forms the line between Newton and Jasper counties.

Williams was convicted mainly on the testimony of Clyde Manning, his negro overseer, who swore that he assisted Williams in murdering a number of negroes and concealing their bodies in various ways, one of which was to sink them in the river with heavy chains and stones. Williams was sentenced to life imprisonment and took his case to the supreme court on a motion for a new trial. The supreme court a few weeks ago declined to grant him a new trial and he is now a prisoner at the state prison farm.

Immediately following the Williams trial, Manning was tried for murder He acknowledged his participation in the murder of Lindsey Peterson, but sought to justify it on the ground that he committed the act in fear of his own life He was defended by Attorneys E. Marvin Underwood and A. D. Meador. They requested Judge Hutcheson to charge that the burden was on the state to prove malice, and that without malice there wa sno murder. Judge Hutcheson declined to incorporate this request in his charge and for that reason the supreme court reversed his judgment and granted the negro a new trial.

CLYDE MANNING

Supreme Circle News

The last chapter in the John S. Williams' famous wholesale murder case came to a close this week, when Williams' head executioneer. Clyde Manning, was given a life sentence at Covington, Ga. Atl Albany, Ga, 8-5-22

Probably no other case in Georgia in recent years claimed so much attention throughout the country than that of John S. Williams.

Williams and his farm boss, Clyde Manning, were charged with having killed more than a dozen men. Several of them having been found in the Yellow River and several dug up from places on the Williams' farm.

When this crime was first committed Georgia came in for her share of criticism and the Williams farm was often referred to as the "Georgia Death Farm".

Sentiment ran high against both Williams and Manning and it was freely predicted that each would undoubtedly receive the death sentence.

Sentiment in this case however had but little or no influence on the law and as a result Williams received his life sentence some time ago and Manning on last week. Both are now doing service, and according to the sentence of the Court shall do for the remainder of their lives.

Thus the final chapter of the famous case comes to a close, but the crime shall continue to be discussed for many years to come.

The once prosperous condition of the Williams farm is not now to be found in evidence, and at one time was completely abandoned. The "stockade" which held many a victim of the Williams-Manning reign still stands, and in the distance presents a scene that the casual observer soon forgets.

The Yellow River, yellow in name, and its waters made so by a combination of the vary colored hills around which it flows has been made "yellow" in the extreme by the number of bodies taken from it, the victim having met their fate at the hands of Williams and Manning.

With Williams and Manning serving life sentences for the many crimes committed, the last chapter in the famous Williams case comes to close so far as the mandates of the law are concerned.

Williams being the much older man than Manning his allotted time of three score and ten is fast approaching.

For the crimes committeed by these two men there is no punishment at the state farm that can be possibly meted out that would be too great for them. Theirs was murder on the wholesale, brutal and otherwise. The wilful taking of human lives.

Williams, in his advanced years seperated from the family ties, cut off from communicating with friends in his accustommanner, denied from communicating with the outside world on account of the sentiment aroused against him, will probably think seriously over the wrongs he has inflicted upon an innocent people. And in those hours that quiet should be supremely his, he will suffer mental anguish, and excruciating torture of the entire human frame.

Manning was the willing tool of Williams. Whether the willing or unwilling tool, he deserves no sympathy. Too many men have expeated with their lives, simply for that which was in the minds of Williams and Manning. So far as we are concerned we hope that Manning will be kept where he is until the Lord calls him, according to the orders of the Court. And if we had that power we would ask the Lord not to do it himself, but to confer that favor on the Devil, and the devil would be on the job tomorrow.

The writer has been up in that vicinity where these numerous crimes were committed, has stood on the very spot where the many victim is supposed to have conversed with those who live in the neighborhood of the many crimes, and if all of the facts could be known in detail and all of the truths brought to light and the victims unearthed, Williams and Manning would have them a cemetery all their own, that would make some of the cemeteries of the smaller cities look small indeed.

Their past years have demonstrated that they were destructive to the very fundamentals of nature itself in their reckless destruction of human lives and hence let them be cut off forever here on this earth where a semblance of their former depredations cannot possibly creep into evidence. For to sum it up in a nutshell, in recent years, Williams and Manning were two of Georgia's worst characters.

CLYDE MANNING CONVICTED FOR SECOND TIME

Atlanta Georgian 7-28-22

COVINGTON, Ga., July 27.—The second verdict of guilty to the charge of complicity in the murder of fourteen negro farm hands, for which John S. Williams, wealthy Jasper County planter is serving a life term at the State Prison Farm, was returned by a jury against Clyde Manning, negro overseer for Williams, after two hours and forty minutes deliberation Thursday. The verdict carried a recommendation for mercy.

The second trial of Manning came when the Georgia Supreme Court recently reversed the decision of the Newton Superior Court, granting the negro a new trial. Manning plead guilty of a charge of slaying several of the negroes, but contended that his deeds were done under duress, he being threatened with death by Williams if he did not kill them.

It was upon the testimony of Manning that Williams was convicted of the wholesale murder of his farm hands. It was the contention of the prosecution that Williams wished to dispose of the negroes so that they could not testify against him in an imminent trial on a charge of peon-

The second trial of Manning lasted but two days. Solicitor General Brand, of the Stone Mountain Circuit, conducted the prosecution in both cases before Judge John B. Hutcheson.

Immediately following the return of the verdict of guilty, Manning was resentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Hutcheson. No indications were made by the negro's attorneys as to whether they will carry the second decision to higher courts.

Williams began serving his sentence of life imprisonment last December, when it became apparent that his case had been fought through practically every legal channel.

SHERIFF AND BROTHER ARE "WHITE-WASHED" OF A PEONAGE CHARGE.

Richmond Planet 10/21/22 Richmond, Va,

(Preston News Service)

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 20.—To tell the truth Jasper County is some county and missionaries can find lots of work there. Harvey K. Persons, Sheriff of Jasper County and brother, W. F. were acquitted of a charge of peonage last Tuesday afternoon in the United States District Court. The jury was out only a few minutes.

The charge was based on the statements of Robert Lee Griggs, a Negro, who asserted that the Persons brothers forced him to work on their plantation in Jasper county without pay, threatening his life if he attempted to escape.

The defendants, it is said introduced testimony to show that they paid Griggs' fine when he was convicted of a misdemeanor, and that he agreed to work until the account had been squared.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Held Peon for Years, Old White Man Tells Probers of Ax Murder

Atlanta Constitution 11-4-22

Pony Thompson, 59 Years Old, Says He Only Got Twenty Dollars for Eight Years' Service.

KEPT IN SERVITUDE, BY WALLER, HE SAYS

Suspect in Ax Murder Case Kept Him on Farm by Fear of Arrest, Declares Aged Man.

Formal chargeof holding in peonage for eight years Pony Thompson, 59-year-old white man, of Fayette county—the first charge of this kind on record in the southern states, according to federal authorities here—were instituted against John Waller, suspect in the recent ax slaying of James C. Langston, Fairburn mail carrier, before United States Commissioner W. Colquitt Carter here Friday.

The peonage warrant will be served immediately upon Waller, who is one of five men being held in the Fayette county jail on suspicion in connection with the death of Langston, whose mutilated body was found on a lonely road near Morning creek one week ago today.

George Samuels, the Spanish hired man who lives at the Charlie Waller home, was released from the Fayette county jail about 3 o'clock Friday afternoon after he had shown to the satisfaction of detectives that he had no connection with the killing. Prisoners now held in the inquiry are Charlie and John Waller and Joe Satterfield and Jim Adams.

Another important development Friday in the murder probe was the employment of H. A. Allen, Atlanta attorney, to assist Fayette county authorities in the prosecution. Attorney Allen was retained by citizens of Fairburn, where the postman lived.

Habeas Corpus Hearing.

Sheriff T. C. Kerlin, of Fayette county, was served Friday with the habeas corpus secured from Judge W. E. H. Searcy of the Flint circuit Thursday by Lester C. Dickson, Fayetteville attorney who represents John and Charlie Waller, two of the suspects. The habeas corpus instructs the sheriff to show cause before Judge Searcy at 10 o'clock Saturday morning why John Waller should not be released. The prisoners are being detained on suspicion, no warrants having been issued in connection with the death of Langston.

In the event Judge Searcy orders the release of John Waller he will be held on the government warrant, it was stated.

The restraining order secured by Attorney Dickson to prevent the questioning of John Waller in the absence of counsel had not been served on the investigators late Friday. Its withdrawal was expected.

Detectives W. R. Adams, W. H. Hames and Will Windsor and Postoffice Inspector J. W. Cole and Sheriff Jenkins, of Fairburn, visited the farm of John Waller shortly after noon Thursday and found Thompson, the alleged peon. He is a man of diminutive stature whose hair has turned completely gray since he began the alleged invountary servitude eight years ago.

Important Witness.

Investigators found hi mto be an important witness in the murder probe, and decided to hold him in custody. After listening to his story, Thompson was brought to Atlanta before officials of the department of justice and district attorney Friday morning where he again related the alleged cruelties to which he had been subjected by Waller.

Eight years ago he entered into an agreement with Waller by which he was to work the latter's farm on equal shares, according to his story. The first year, he stated, Waller seized the entire crop and refused to divide with him according to the terms of agreement. A new agreement was made between the two men at the expiration of the first year in which Thompson was to receive a salary for his work on the farm, he stated, but all during the ensuing seven years Thompson claims he received not more than $20 in money from his employer.

In 1920 Thompson claimed he ran away from the farm and went to Covington, Ga. His stay there was short lived, he claimed, as Waller is alleged to have sworn out a warrant charging him with a misdemeanor, which was served on him by the sheriff of Fayette county and he was returned to Fayetteville. Upon his agreement to resume work on the Waller farm, Thompson declares, the charges against him were dropped.

Runs Away Again.

Once before, in 1918, he left the farm but was overtaken by Waller before he could get away from the vicinity, and taken back. On this occasion, as on others, Thompson asserts that he was threatened with physical violence by Waller if he ran away again.

Questioned by government officials as to Waller's alleged connection with the murder of Langston, Thompson stated that he knew nothing of Waller's activities on that day or any other time, but that it was a recognized fact, he stated, that Waller was the ring leader of a gang in Fayette county who spread terror among the inhabitants.

"Waller never let me know anything about his personal affairs," Thompson told officals of the department of justice. "A number of things have transpired, however, in which I know that Waller played a prominent part.

"When I ran away from the farm in 1920 Waller swore out a warrant charging me with breaking a labor contract. I don t know just what the contract was about but he claimed that I was bound to work for him and could not leave his services legally. After my arrest in Covington I was returned to Fayetteville and Waller came to me and told me if I would return to the farm he would go on my bond.

Afraid to Leave.

"I do not know what ever became of the warrant against me but at every session of court Waller would come to me and tell me that he was on my bond and if I left him the sheriff would arrest me and put me in jail. He did this for more than two years. I was afraid to leave him again for fear that I would be placed in jail.

Records in the Fayette superior court show that Thompson was arrested on charges of violating a labor contract but at the subsequent term of court the charges were dismissed.

At the time of his arrest Thompson was attired in a ragged suit of overalls. He told federal officers that he had not had money with which to purchase new clothes since he first went to work on the Waller farm. He seemed to be concerned over the fact that he did not have enough smoking tobacco more than lack of clothing.

The warrant against Waller was placed in the hands of a United States deputy marshall who left Friday afternoon for Fayetteville where it was to be served on Waller, who is being held in the county jail in connection with the murder of Langston.

As a matter of safeguarding Thompson from any possible violence gvernment officials are holding him under surveillance and under the protection of the authorities at a place which the refused to divulge.

John Williams Not Farm "Boss," Asserts Rainey

Atlanta Constitution

The state prison commission Thursday denied statements printed recently in The New York World that John Williams, who was convicted in Newton county for murder in connection with the killing of 11 negroes on his farm in Jasper county, was a trusty at the prison and was serving as "boss" of the prison farm. The commission made this denial through E. L. Rainey, associate member, who declared that these charges were false in their entirety and that they had been circulated maliciously.

Mr. Rainey said Williams was at the state farm at Milledgeville and was receiving exactly the same treatment as other prisoners. He said Williams was not serving as a farm "boss" but said the prison authorities were using Williams in a position where the authorities could take full advantage of Williams' knowledge of farming methods.

"We are using Williams' knowledge of farming just the same as we would use a prisoner's knowledge of shoemaking. If we had a shoemaker as a prisoner we would use him as a shoemaker. Williams is a farmer and we are using him as a farmer. He is not receiving any better treatment or any worse treatment than other prisoners," Mr. Rainey said.

"The entire article in The New York World is false from start to finish. We have denied such statements in the past and are ready to prove to anybody at any time that Williams is being treated exactly as are other prisoners. Any statement to the contrary is entirely false."

SHERIFF ON TRIAL IN PEONAGE CASE

Jasper Sheriff Denies Charge of Atlanta Negro That He Was Held in "Slavery."

10/10/22 Atlanta Constitution

Harvey K. Persons, sheriff of Jasper county, and his brother, W. F. Persons, charged with violation of section 268 of the United States penal code, in connection with the alleged kidnaping of Robert Lee Griggs, an Atlanta negro, who claims he was held in peonage on the Persons farm, were arraigned in United States district court Monday before Federal Judge Samuel H. Sibley. The case was incomplete in the afternoon and will be resumed again Tuesday morning.

Persons was sheriff of Jasper county at the time of the famous Williams "murder farm" expose.

The indictment against Sheriff Persons and his brother was returned March 15, 1921. Both were charged jointly with kidnaping Griggs in Atlanta and holding him in slavery on their farm in Jasper county. The negro was placed on the stand and related alleged details of his "arrest" in Atlanta and his subsequent removal to the farm where he declared he was compelled by threats of violence to work.

In rebuttal both defendants were placed on the stand and declared the negro was arrested on a misdemeanor charge here. He was arraigned in Jasper county superior court and convicted. The sheriff offered to pay his fine provided the negro would work it out in labor on the farm and the negro accepted the proposal, Sheriff Persons said.

Attorney Marion Smith represents the defendants. Assistant District Attorney Goree conducted the prosecution.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEC 15

Agriculture – 1922

Georgia

Labor ~~Conditions~~

New Blood Needed to Save Farming Fabric of Georgia

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Tenant System in Vogue Scored by H. G. Hastings, Head of Georgia Association. 1/1/22

That the system of tenant farming, largely conducted by ignorant people, is shot full of "rottenness" and must go into the discard with full infestation of the state by boll weevil, and that new blood from other sections is necessary to save the agricultural fabric of Georgia from ruin, are feature statements in a statement just issued by H. G. Hastings, president of the Georgia association.

In addition to scoring the tenant system, which he declares "is mining the land and exhausting its fertility instead of preserving it," President Hastings declares that young people with modern ideas, who are versed in raising other commodities than cotton alone, are willing to come to this state provided the message of its unbounded possibilities can be carried to them.

He declares that the Georgia association is the willing carrier of such a message to the whole nation, and closes his communication with a plea for full support of the organization.

The communication in full follows:

Hastings' Statement.

"When will the people of Georgia quit doing the ostrich act of hiding their heads in the sand, thus failing to see the real down-at-the-bottom fundamental trouble that afflicts Georgia at the present time?

"On every hand we hear talk of the damage the boll weevil has done, now that we have experienced the first full flood of weevil infestation. Apparently nobody really expected the weevil to do serious damage despite the fact that for ten years or more warnings have been sounded regularly in Georgia and our people told that they must change our agricultural system.

"The boll weevil is really incidental. The real trouble is the tenant farming system that has done more to ruin our lands and a large part of our people than did the civil war. We know that this is strong language but it is justified by the facts and the condition that our people find themselves in now.

Interest in Situation.

"We have watched the situation with intense interest hoping that some one else, far better fitted, would tell our people the bald truth. Our papers are full of talk about marketing schemes for this, that and the other thing and switching from cotton growing to other forms of diversified production. We have no criticism to make of these worthy ambitions but the generality of our farm people have no surplus of these diversified items to sell above their nome needs.

"Speaking in round numbers the United States census (1920) shows Georgia as having about 330,000 farms. Of these, 110,000 are operated by their owners either with their own labor or their own labor in combination with hired labor. The other 220,000, two-thirds of the total, is tenant farming of the lowest type, largely ignorant negro tenants going on either without any or at best nominal supervision.

"Who are the owners of these tenant infested acres? Largely eminent, perfectly respectable and otherwise sensible white people living either in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Savannah or any of the 150 odd courthouse cities and towns scattered around the state. These folks have been getting 'cotton rent for their acres thinking, foolishly, that they were getting a profit when they were actually depleting their capital which is the natural fertility of the farm soil.

Tenant System Scored.

"The tenant with his 'land skinning' style of operations was and is far wiser than the land owner who rents to him on any of the various renting plans prevalent in Georgia. It was to the tenant's interest to take all that he could from the land and put little or nothing back in and that is exactly what has been going on here in Georgia for fifty years or more on two-thirds of our farms. Is it any wonder that so much of our once fertile farm acreage has had to be abandoned so far as cultivation is concerned?

"This rotten system meant all cotton on this tenant acreage up to the limit of the tenant's ability to tend even without boll weevil as a factor. The landlord demanded cotton rent, fertilizer men, supply merchant, country banker, etc., all demanded all cotton acreage as the price for staking tenant directly or indirectly for food, clothing, fertilizer, etc., furnished during the season while the crop was in process of making.

"All through this system ran the intent, conscious or otherwise, to keep the tenant in a condition of economic slavery to the factors supplying him land, food and clothing so that he would be forced to continue in a condition of dependency and a source of supposed profit to those staking him each year. Only once did the tenant ever really get out of control and that was during 1919. This led to the large expansion of credits to tenants in 1920 in an effort to get them under control again with its consequent disaster to supply merchants and others in 1920. The game was to keep the tenant in debt and consequently under control, not through wise personal supervision on the part of the land owner but by the ramifications of the tenant and renting system.

Curse to Georgia.

"No use to go into all the details of this tenant system that has cursed all the cotton states in greater or less degree, Georgia probably the worst of all. Under it, getting ahead by the individual tenant was practically out of the question. The whole thing is a blot on Georgia's agricultural history and leaves us now in a critical time with disorganized finances and soil fertility depleted because we have mined the soil instead of diversified cultivating in manner that enhances soil fertility.

"With the exception of a few most northerly counties, Georgia is fully infested with boll weevil, and in the light of past experience the weevil must be considered a constant, ever present factor in cotton production in this state. Some years the weevil will be worse than others, but so far as can be foreseen, the weevil will always be on the job and take for his toll a certain percentage of the crop.

"Ful' infestation by weevil in Georgia means the death knell of the tenant system as it has been worked in our state. Cotton production affording a living to landlord, supply merchant, country banker and all the rest is no longer a safe game, in fact it's just the opposite. A few may hang on trying to play the game the old way but they will go broke sooner or later. It is impossible for a tenant to grow enough cotton on depleted soil under weevil conditions, such cotton being sold at wholesale price, to pay for the subsistence of himself, his family and his working live stock on a top retail price basis usually plus a fairly stiff credit or interest charge.

Owned by Whites.

"These 220,000 tenant farms in Georgia are largely owned by white men who for one reason or another have moved either to the towns or cities and are, or, rather, have been up to now, living largely off of cotton rent. In most cases the supervision of their tenants is of the most nominal character. So long as the tenant works his cotton and brings in his rent bale or bales he is largely left alone. Heretofore his tenant-worked acres have been sort of a cotton mine from which he drew dividends with greater or less regularity. The dividend paying part of the cotton mine is now playing out due to the boll weevil

"A critical situation confronts not only the land owners but the business interests of our towns and cities whose business prosperity is dependent on productive acres. Directly or indirectly most of us have been participants in this **soil destroying and manhood destroying** tenant system that has held back Georgia at least twenty-five years in its otherwise natural development.

"The continuance of the tenant system has been dependent on cotton production largely unhindered by insect enemies and plant diseases. The day of freedom from insect attacks is over. The weevil is not only a dangerous factor but a constant one. The day of the old style tenant system based on exclusive cotton production, practically without competent white or land owner supervision is done. The day of planting cotton to the limit of he tenant's ability to tend in the old slip shod way is done.

Three Alternatives.

"Three clear and distinct alternatives face our farm land owning folks who have been living in town on cotton rent. They must accept one of the three. Under weevil conditions there is no other way out. Cotton cannot be profitably produced under boll weevil conditions by ignorant tenants without competent supervision.

"The first alternative is for the white landowner now living in town to go back on his land and stay there, intelligently and constantly giving personal supervision to the labor engaged in crop making. Under such supervision, limiting cotton acreage to not exceeding five acres to the plow, putting the other acreage in food and grain crops, cotton growing can be made profitable and if combined with live stock production, the depleted soil fertility restored

"How many of these town living, farm land owning folks, softened by years of town living and relative ease will have the backbone and courage to go back to the land and do the perfectly obvious and necessary thing remains to be seen. I hazard the opinion that the number will be relatively small.

"The second alternative is for them to stay in town with no income from the farm land and eke out a precarious existence as best they may while the once fertile farm lands revert to the old field pines and broom sedge. Undoubtedly millions of perfectly good acres will thus be let go back to nature.

Bring in Settlers.

"The third alternative is to bring in, through perfectly legitimate and truthful advertising and promotion, several hundred thousand energetic young farm-raised folks from the states to the north of us and settle them on our unused lands, same being sold to them on the most favorable terms.

"There are in all probability a million or more of these fa raised young men and women who cannot get a land owning foothold where they are, due to high cost of land and the large amount of capital necessary to make a start. These folks are real farmers, not simply croppers. means nothing to them. Their knowledge and interest is in the dairy and beef cattle, hogs poultry and the hay and grain crops necessary to feed live stock. These are the folks that build up land instead of robbing or mining it. They are not ashamed to work with their own hands. They are a class of peo that Georgia has needed in the p and needs now worse than ever u der the new conditions that co front us.

"I am and always have been fla ly opposed to bringing to Georgia the generality of foreign immigrants. They do not fit into the general scheme of American life in the south. We do need, however, more people of the type populating the farms in the states further north, the younger generation that is looking anxiously for better opportunities than their present locality affords. It is the same class of folks that so largely settled Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and other western states in the '70s and '80s and made them the leaders in agricultural wealth that those states now are.

Gives Exaniple.

"I was intensely interested a month ago in talking with a dairyman from New York state who was here during the farm bureau convention. This man was one of the farm bureau party that the Georgia association took on a two-days' trip. He is coming back here to get a location for his son who wants to start in the dairy business under more favorable conditions

"This dairyman lives in a small than are present in New York state, farming community near Albany, N. Y. He stated that, in addition to his own son, he knew of at least fifteen young farm-raised men who were looking for just such opportunities as he saw on his two-days' trip and that they could be brought to Georgia easily if our resources and opportunities were properly presented to them.

"The important thing for us to realize is that there are thousands of just such farm communities each with their ten, fifteen or more ambitious farm-raised young men who cannot get a foothold with $200 to $400 per acre land and who would welcome a chance to start independent farm life under favorable conditions and opportunities such as Georgia abounds in. They know little or nothing about Georgia now. It is only a vague geographical unit of which their notions are hazy and incorrect. They will never know about Georgia unless they are told by us. They will never come to Georgia unless we invite them whole-heartedly.

"Georgia, even without the weevil, had only one-third of its tillable area under cultivation. Our present weevil infestation means beyond any question the abandonment of two or three million acres now under tenant cultivation unless the tenants are replaced by actual farmers from other states. Under such circumstances can Georgians, either from city or country, afford to stand aloof and indifferent to every legitimate effort possible to bring new and desirable farm people into Georgia?

Georgia Association.

"The Georgia association has been doing its best, with a minimum of both moral and financial support from those in Georgia most vitally interested, to get attention turned this way. In accord with the small amount available the results have been surprisingly good. Our experience shows that, the Georgia association, properly supported, can easily turn a tide of young farm-raised men to Georgia acres, men trained to dairying, live stock and diversified crops and who will be independent of cotton.

"We have simply got to fill up these otherwise idle acres or else Georgia will slip and slip fast and permanent disaster come to city, town and country alike. The quickness with which the tide can be turned our way is absolutely dependent on the support given the only agency that is using every possible effort to turn the tide this way. Our present situation should not be looked on as a disaster but rather a summons for every man, and woman in Georgia, to face perfectly obvious facts and more promptly turn the present discouraging situation into a real sound agricultural and business development that will make Georgia in reality the 'Empire State,' not only of the south, but of the nation."

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Negroes Migrating To Florida Truck Fields

Atlanta Georgian

MOULTRIE, Ga., [illegible] Negroes in this section who have been without work for several months are finding employment in large numbers in the Florida truck fields. Recently more than 75 left Moultrie for Hastings, Fla., where they will put in several weeks on a big Irish potato farm. The negroes made the trip in large trucks hired by the truck farmers.

The time was when the removal of so many laborers would have brought protest, but farmers say they have plenty of help now. Power farming, which is being adopted rapidly in Southwest Georgia, has reduced greatly the number of men needed

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PEEL 15

Agriculture - 1922

Alabama

Labor Conditions.

This Black Belt Country

Poverty Ranch, Lowndes. County, April 15th, 1922.

Editor The Advertiser:

"It seems to me that God has done more for this country and man less than any country I ever saw." 4/24/22

I heard a prominent minister use these words about twenty years ago in the course of a sermon in Hayneville. He was speaking of the country immediately around the village, consisting merely of prarie or lime lands.

I was not very much impressed with these words at the time they were used, because we at that time were raising cotton as a money crop and had plenty of negro labor and conditions were fairly prosperous with us. But the advent of the boll weevil here about seven years ago dethroned "King Cotton" and this once prosperous section is gradually getting poorer each year.

About the 20th of March I was gathering my cattle to put them in the pasture. Our cattle run at large here during the winter and until corn begins to come up in the spring. I rode up on a high hill to look for my scattered cattle and as far as I could see, the entire face of the earth, with the exception of the few small patches, here and there, that had been plowed, was covered with a carpet of green. Gathering a bunch of cattle as I rode over the pasture I counted six varieties of grasses that even at that date were good grazing and the cattle looked fine. Black Meddick, a species of clover, almost covered the hillsides and mellilotus (sweet cover) was fine even on the side of the gullies and waste places, while in the bottoms white clover, paspalum or Dallas grass, Bermuda and Johnson grass vied with each other in adding beauty to the picture and wealth to the soil. I pulled a runner from a bunch of Black Meddick that by actual measure was twelve inches long and the mellilotus was from six to twelve inches high, and not one of these splendid grazing and soil renovating grasses planted by the hand of man, but all the bounteous, free gift of God. As I sat on my horse and looked around me, I could see above the green of these grasses the white blooms of haw trees scattered here and there in the pasture and the fragrance of crabapple blossoms came to me on the spring breeze. A mocking bird filled the air with the melody of its song and across the bottom came the "Bob-White"of a partridge. Looking at the beautiful picture and listening to these sounds the words of the preacher seemed to come to me from across the years.

Large Tracts.

Seventy-five per cent. of these prairie lands are owned in large bodies, and are rented to negro tenants and more than 50% of those so rented are owned by non-residents.

The negro tenant does not know (nor does he want to know) how to raise any other crop as a money crop except cotton and he lacked a whole lot of being expert at it, even before boll weevils appeared here and with boll weevils—which seems to be like the poor, "always with us,"—he is just down and out. Negro tenants on the prairie lands did not average over one bale of cotton to the plow last year and haven't done much better since 1915. During the high price period of 1917-1918 and 1919 for the little cotton they made and the equally high price for corn and hay and the few chickens and eggs and an occasional yearling, they managed to pay a small rent and the meager advances they were able to obtain. But with all farm products at the present price I do not see how they are going to stay here. If they could raise cotton as they did before boll weevils came, they could make a living even at 10 cents per pound for cotton.

The negro has neither the capital nor intelligence to engage in dairying or raise live stock. He raises sometimes a stunted scrub yearling from his milch cow, which at two years old weighs about three hundred pounds. He rarely ever raises half enough meat for his family. He usually plants a small patch of sorghum and makes it into syrup in the fall, kills the few "shoats" he has about Christmas, and eats the meat and sorghum, usually, before the first of May, from which time until he makes up his next crop of sorghum he "chews the cud of regret" in lieu of both meat and sorghum and faithfully promises his "old lady" and his "boss man", both of whom fuss at him about his improvidence, that he is "sure gwinter plant a plenty a sorghum and raise a plenty a meat next year." But "nex vear" never comes.

FLYING SQUADRON TO GO AFTER MORE WHITE FARMERS.

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 12, 1922.

Editor The Advertiser:

The Montgomery county schools are attracting Nation-wide attention. It is rather an unusual and phenomenal thing for a county to open seven new modern consolidated schools at one time. This is what will be done in this county on the 18th day of September. These schools should be the leading attraction in building up this county with progressive white farmers and their families.

Montgomery county has not made the agricultural progress that it should in keeping with the progress of the counties to the northwest and south thereof. This is due in a large measure to the lack of white farmers in the rural sections and to the large farm. There are, however, in the south third of the county a large number of small farms and a number of white farmers, but these farmers do not seem to have been as successful as the farmers of Pike, Covington, Geneva, Coffee, Tallapoosa and Elmore counties. You will notice from a study of a map of Montgomery county that five of the consolidated schools of the county are located in the southern part of the county, viz: Pine Level, Grady, LaPine, Grange Hall and Ramer. There is also a small new school at Dublin and one at Chesser, both of which are in the southern part of the county.

Since the war and the construction of the Rotary Camp and Cramton Bowl, the seven civic clubs of Montgomery have had very little to do. These clubs should cooperate to help build up the county. They could do no finer work than to form "Flying Squadrons" to visit Elmore, Tallapoosa, Covington, Coffee, Geneva and Pike counties and tell the people in these counties about the wonderful agricultural and educational possibilities of Montgomery county. By sending out these flying squadrons, the civic clubs would accomplish a real service for themselves and for the communities where they visit.

These flying squadrons would be wonderfully impressed with the desirability of new, progressive white farmers in this county, when they visit these other counties, and see their value to the different communities therein. They would catch the spirit of Tallassee, Equality, Enterprise, Elba, Samson, Slocomb, Hartford, Geneva, Opp, Andalusia, Troy, Brundidge and Springhill and would learn the value of having a large number of white-headed, blue-eyed, healthy children on the farms of Montgomery county. It will be surprising to these enterprising civic gentlemen how progressive these villages and towns are and how they cater to the white farmer and render him every aid and encouragement. It would be a civic awakening and would also acquaint these gentlemen with the needs of Montgomery county, in fact, it would be a liberal education for them.

A quick development of Montgomery county would result from a concerted movement of this kind on the part of these civic clubs. You will recall what a "business-getter" the Marching Clubs and Booster Trains of the West are. All of the above mentioned towns and villages are easily accessible from Montgomery by automobile. The roads are in good condition, the scenery attractive, and the atmosphere exhilarating.

The number of children in the average family of Coffee county is ten, a wonderful example for Montgomery county to follow. All it means to put this movement over is plenty of "pep," push and pull. Please see that the leaders of the civic clubs get in behind the same.

Yours very truly,

EDUCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROMOTER.

Do Tenants and Croppers Read as Much as Landowners?

The Progressive Farmer 9-16-22

DO TENANTS and croppers read as much as landowners? An investigation by the United States Department of Agriculture in one of the Southern states shows that they do not. Thirty-nine per cent of the croppers had no periodical literature of any sort. Only 4.3 per cent of the tenants and none of the landowners were without periodical reading matter.

Daily newspapers from the larger cities and towns of the section constituted the greatest source of reading matter for these farmers, while agricultural journals occupied the next most important place in the reading matter of farm operators. The time devoted to reading books was relatively small as compared with the time spent in reading periodical literature. No books whatever, except schoolbooks were found in 39 per cent of all owners' homes, and 36 per cent of all tenants' homes.

Fifty per cent of these farmers subscribed to at least one farm paper. Analyzing the tendencies of the different tenure classes in this respect, it was found that while only 30 per cent of the croppers subscribed to farm papers, 51 per cent of the tenants and 59 per cent of the owners kept up with agricultural progress by reading one or more farm pa-

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION OF DELTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT EASTLAND PLANTATION

Cotton Farmer — 9/30/22

The sixth annual session of the Delta Medical Veterinary Association convened in its sixth annual session at the Eastland Plantation, the stock farm of the company, on Sept. 21, 1922, at 9 a.m., **Dr. B. M. Davenport, the veterinary surgeon of the Delta & Pine Land Company, presiding, and Dr. C. G. Stallswoth, veterinarian, of Drew, Miss., Secretary.** The enrollment showed the following present: **Drs. J. Baird,** wholesale hardware, Greenville, Miss.; **R. H. Stewart,** Belzoni; **Magnus S. Teague,** Belzoni; **P. H. Mommsen,** Grenada; **Henry Jones,** Memphis; **M. K. Leath,** Grenada; **M. J. Luster,** Clarksdale; **H. L. Fry,** Jackson; **C. F. Lipp,** Shaw; **C. D. Crawford,** Rolling Fork; **A. J. Royal,** Hollandale; **E. H. Berry,** Leland; **Wm. L. Gates,** Clarksdale; **M. W. Fletcher,** Clarksdale; **G. A. McNees,** Memphis, Tenn.; **B. F. Hurston,** Indianola; **E. M. Norton,** Greenville; **E. S. Norton,** Greenville; **C. G. Stallsworth,** Drew; **A. S. Fletcher,** Indianola; **B. M. Davenport,** Scott; **S. H. Fogel,** Greenwood; **T. T. Bailey,** Rolling Fork, and **R. H. Mohlenhoff,** Cleveland. Immediately after the formal opening and the selection of surgeons to conduct the clinics, the surgeons and all the interested lay spectators went to the company's stock hospital, where Dr. Davenport had made all the necessary preparations for conducting the clinics. Percy, Dr. Davenport's faithful "barn keeper," was on hand to assist in waiting on the visitors, and Boyce Cleveland was also on hand to help Percy. The visiting surgeons pronounced the "stock" for confining stock the best they had ever seen. This is a stock made according to Dr. Davenport's own individual idea of a "stock."

The first clinic performed was the cutting out of a large set fast of long standing from the back of one of the tenant's horses. Dr. Davenport went into this and used the knife as though he was simply cutting into one of his forty-pound watermelons. The next clinic was performed by the younger Dr. Norton. He cut from what we colored folks call a foot evil mule a big bunch of gristle. The editor does not know the technical term, but we know one thing, he went into this foot evil with the spirit. Our folks say that this foot evil is caused by mules standing in muddy lots. Then this same mule was brought out and thrown and securely tied with Dr. Davenport's own throw and tie ropes and straps. The Elder Norton then removed a large fistula from the breast of this mule. Dr. Norton used his knife with as much ease as though he was whittling a piece of white pine goods box before a country store and discussing the vital issues of the day. The next clinic was the taking off of a large cancerous wart from the penis of a horse. This was done by Dr/ Gates and from a colored layman's point of view, no man in the United States could have done it any better than Dr. Gates and with as much ease. After the operation the owner of the horse hopped on him and started on his long journey back home and the horse acted as though he had not been under the knife.

The next operation was the cutting out of a large fistula from a mule's shoulder. This operation was performed by Drs. Gates and the Elder Norton. These gentlemen use the surgeon's knife with perfect ease. They go into a live mule with as much ease as Henry Young, the company's butcher, goes into a fat hind quarter of Swift's beef.

It was thought they had a "rig mule" for Dr. Berry of Leland, an expert on "rig," for him to demonstrate for the benefit of the other surgeons, but it turned out that he was only a mule that when a colt had been under the knife of possibly some "Missouri quack horse doctor," an dof course there was nothing doing

The association was the guest of Dr. Davenport at a barbecue dinner spread in the Eastland lawn and superintended by Mrs. Davenport, aided by several of the visiting ladies. The meat was cooked by Deacon Albert Brown of McConnell Plantation. It is enough said when we say that Brown was the cook for all to know that the meat was well cooked. After dinner a evening session was held and discussions were had on several subjects. Mule Swamp Fever seemed to be the most interesting subject and definite steps were taken to stamp out this growing evil, which causes so much loss to the cotton planters of the Cotton Belt. One of the doctors, Dr. Gates, astonished by making the announcement that out of four cases of black tongue he had cured three. He mentioned some sort of medicine as a remedy and with a diet of sardines and said he had got his diet remedy from a negro.

The convention adjourned to meet in its next annual session at Indianola.

The Cotton Farmer had hoped to hear some discussion as to the prevention of disease among mules; the best method of housing them and of feeding them. We have never believed that the long trough with all the mules eating out of one trough is an economical way or healthy way to feed mules. Somehow he believes in the individual stall. This paper also believes that the plantation hostler should be a man of some qualifications and that any and every man is not fit to be a hostler. There is no need for a mule's life or usefulness to be of so short a duration as is customary in the Cotton Belt.. It is too great a drain on the resources of the cotton raisers. A well kept mule ordinarily ought to be of good service for fifteen years or more. If we cotton raisers are to make a success out of cotton raising we certainly will have to eliminate a great deal of the waste we have in cotton raising, and there is nothing that digs into the south's profits more than the waste of mule power. SAVE THE GOOD OLD FAITHFUL MULE.

Agriculture – 1922

Alabama

Labor Conditions

The Cost of Labor In Alabama

Montgomery Advertiser 3/5/22

By F. W. GIST, Agricultural Statistician.

The statement of Mr. Roger Babson to the effect that Alabama labor is inefficient to the point of serious loss in industrial progress as compared with other sections of the United States is interesting, and alarming if true. A study of the statistics available on this point, however, does not confirm his indictment, at least to the very marked degree which his remarks indicate. There are some data bearing on the matter in question, all ready for the consideration of Mr. Ford or any other interested person. These data may not cover the subject in all its ramifications, but on the main issue they must be accepted as conclusive. Mr. Babson, as an analytic statistician, will probably agree that money returns from labor expended constitute the most rigid test of efficiency. In fact, his remarks must be taken to mean that, while natural resources and absolute cheapness of labor favor Alabama very highly, the inefficiency of her labor changes its apparent cheapness to one of high cost. Therefore, if the facts available show that her labor returns in dollars and cents an equivalent proportionate value in comparison with other sections, then his indictment must fail for want of proof and should be quashed.

The United States census of manufactures gives, among other interesting data, the amount expended for wages and the value added by manufacture to the raw material used in each industry and for each State. It is possible, therefore, to determine just how much value is added by manufacture for each dollar expended in labor wages. It is presumed that Mr. Babson will agree that his is the nearest approach possible to an efficiency test. On this basis, then, let us examine the records. For each dollar paid out in labor wages in 1909 there were added by manufacture to ths raw material used the following amounts as the average for the sections indicated:

The East	$2.35
The North	2.66
The West	2.31
The South	2.51
The United States	2.51

The South, therefore, that section to which Mr. Babson's client refused to come on account of her labor inefficiency, is seen to rank above the East and the West, equal to the country as a whole, and only under the ratio for the North. With perfect candor let us compare Alabama with the leading State, in point of volume of labor used, in each of the nine geographic sections used by the census. The figures refer again to the census year 1909:

Massachusetts	$2.19
Pennsylvania	2.29
Illinois	2.77
Missouri	2.71
Maryland	2.56
Texas	2.50
Colorado	2.49
California	2.45
Alabama	2.29

Other Comparisons.

In this comparison the ratios are, of course, very heavily affected by the character of the commodities involved, in some States leading or important commodities carrying higher values and being susceptible of much greater added value than in others. In order to submit a fair test of efficiency let us take the leading commodities in the manufacture of which Alabama is engaged and compare them with the same commodities in Mr. Babson's State and in the United States:

Commodity—	Ala.	Mass.	U. S.
Bread	$3.00	$3.08	$2.83
Brick	1.83	1.53	1.69
Car construction	1.09	1.05	1.14
Coke (1)	2.37	2.00	2.10
Cotton goods	1.87	1.52	1.69
Fertilizers (2)	5.12	2.67	4.30
Foundry products	2.11	1.90	2.08
Furniture	2.61	2.06	2.60
Ice (3)	4.56	2.12	2.90
Iron and steel (1)	3.11	2.17	2.33
Lime	1.37	1.47	1.60
Lumber	1.86	2.68	1.69
Marble and stone	2.07	1.67	1.82
Mineral & soda waters	5.14	4.10	3.55
Printing	3.07	3.05	2.71
Shipbuilding	1.54	1.20	1.56
Average	2.67	2.14	2.25

Note—1 Compared with Pennsylvania; 2 with Connecticut, and 3 with Rhode Island for the reason that Massachusetts does not manufacture these commodities.

These figures are from the census of 1914 and bring us more nearly up to present conditions than those of 1909. It will be seen that for the principal classes of manufacture engaged in Alabama shows by this test an efficiency 25 per cent. higher than Massachusetts and 18 per cent. higher than the United States.

In the manufacture of brick, coke, fertilizers, iron and steel, lime, and lumber in Alabama the negro laborer is chiefly engaged and perhaps predominates. While Mr. Babson did not say so, it is likely that both he and his client base their idea of our inefficiency on the large proportion of negro labor which we employ. In these six items, in which the negro largely engages, the relative efficiency, as measured in terms of dollars and cents returned from labor cost, stands: Alabama, $2.61; Massachusetts, $2.08, and the United States, $2.30.

In the production of coal, in which the negro largely predominates in Alabama, the cost per ton of coal produced, for wages only, in 1909 is given b ythe census as follows for the leading states:

Alabama	$0.73
Illinois	.83
Indiana	.83
Kansas	1.18
Missouri	1.31
Ohio	.76
Oklahoma	1.54
Pennsylvania	.63
Tennessee	.80
West Virginia	.57
United States	.75

Factors in Inefficiency.

On the whole the facts submitted seems to indicate that our labor efficiency is not at quite so low an ebb as Mr. Babson believes. His statement was merely a matter of belief apparently, as he gave no authority for his indictment. Inefficiency of labor may be charged to (1) lack of knowledge or skill; (2) intentional limiting of production, and (3) pure laziness. We may as well admit the first factor, and we have our share of the third; but in the second we are more fortunate than some other sections. For the year 1909 in New England less than two per cent. of the laborers worked more than 60 hours per week; in the Middle Atlantic, East North Central, and West North Central States about 7 per cent. worked more than 60 hours; in the Western States about 11 per cent. worked more than 60 hours, while in the South a fraction more than 20 per cent. worked over 60 hours. In Alabama 7.5 per cent. worked under 54 hours, 57.9 per cent. worked 54 to 60 hours, and 34.6 worked more than 60 hours. In the United States 15 per cent. worked less than 54 hours, 76 per cent. 54 to 60, and 9 per cent. more than 60 hours. Such efficiency as is shown by the data here presented is in all probability due to the longer hours at lower wages. It is likely that by this data, since union methods have gradually pervaded our section, our inefficiency has become somewhat more pronounced. The last census figures are not yet available.

In the South last year the average acre-value of crops was greater than that of either the North or West, but less than the East, in which the efforts of farmers are directed to more valuable commodities of table use. The East, in turn, spends much more for farm labor and cultivates much less area per man or team unit.

Taken altogether, we submit that the facts at hand do not bear out Mr. Babson's indictment and that such facts are directly in evidence on the point involved. It is gratifying to know, however, that Mr. Babson did not gather the inefficiency statistics on which his client refused to come here. We are entitled to presume that his client did not have any statistics, and acted solely on the rule of not wanting to.

GIBSON REAPPOINTED TUSKEGEE POSTMASTER

3/3/22

New Home Demonstration Agent Arrives For Work; Make Efforts at Cheap Crops

Montgomery Advertiser

(Special to The Advertiser)

TUSKEGEE, ALA., March 2.—Information from Washington that B. C. Gibson had been reappointed as postmaster of Tuskegee was received with delight by the friends of Mr. Gibson. Mr. Gibson has the honor and the distinction of being the only postmaster that has served two terms, since Tuskegee has had a postoffice. He is now entering his third term, having received his appointment under the new administration.

Home Demonstration Agent.

Mrs. Ida Jones and son arrived in Tuskegee yesterday. Mrs. Jones has recently been elected to the position of home demonstration agent in Macon county. She will become prominent around the court house and over the county as she enters into her task.

Rains Injure Roads.

The rains of this week have more than undone the sunshine of last week. Macon county roads are again to the bad. There were three large cars in one mud-hole Thursday morning near the Normal Institute.

Negroes Draw Rations.

The first of March brought a large crowd of the negro population of Macon county to Tuskegee. That was the day set for the tenants to make their first draw of rations. They came on foot; they came on horseback; they came in wagons, all of them came. The land owners are determined that this crop shall be less expensive than the one of last year.

Agriculture — 1922.
Labor Conditions.

Peonage (Alabama)

ONE HUNDRED BALES OF COTTON DESTROYED

Montgomery Advertiser

Fire Sweeps Large Warehouse Near Smith's Station; Peonage Is Charged

7-15-22

(Special to The Advertiser)

OPELIKA, ALA., July 14.—The large warehouse at Bleeckers, near Smith's Station, caught fire, and uart of the building was destroyed before the flames were extinguished.

The night watchman at the Cook Lumber Yards discovered the fire, and a hose was connected with the boiler of that plant ,and the fire was gotten under control after about half of the building was destroyed. Quite a lot of cotton was in the building at the time, and about one hundred bales were destroyed, but it is thought this was covered by insurance.

Peonage Is Charged

George Adams and Page Adams, two prosperous and well to do land owners of Chambers county, have been charged by the government of the offense of peonage, and on having been brought before Joe Brown Duke, commissioner, this morning, they each waived a preliminary hearing and their bonds for their appearance at the federal court, in the event of their indictment for these offenses, were fixed at $750.

New Filling Station

The Gulf Refining Company, of Louisiana, catching the spirit of progress evidenced by every one in Opelika of late, has erected a handsom and well equipped filling station o Geneva street, which will not onl prove beneficial in a financial way but it will add to the beauty an

PEONAGE IS CHARGED TO MONROE COUNTIAN

Montgomery Advertiser

Federal Grand Jury Indicts Prominent Planter

11-3-21

(Special to The Advertiser)

MOBILE, ALA., Dec. 2.—Four indictments charging violation of the national peonage laws were returned against J. B. McPherson, prominent planter of Nadawa, Monroe county, by the federal grand jury, sitting for the November term, which adjourned late tonight, after being in session since Monday. It is alleged that McPherson forced negroes to work on his plantation, some of which he never paid. He was given a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner J. Irwin Burgett here few days ago and released on bond. H. C. Burnham was charged with interference with a government officer in performance of his duties when a raid was made on the place at 206 Conti street several days ago by Federal narcotic agent at which time James Behan was killed, and in connection with which Harry French one of the raiding officers is under bond on a charge of second degree murder.

Agriculture - 1922

Mississippi (Peonage)

Labor Conditions

SHOOT HIM DOWN BEFORE HIS FAMILY

Exile Writes of New Murder Farm in Mississippi; Is Afraid to Tell Name

Chicago Defender
4/22/22

By a Staff Correspondent

Long, Miss., April 21.—" • • • so please don't call my name. If so, I'll be mobbed. Please let me hear from you soon and tell me what to do. I can't tell just all about this, the way this whole country is standing, and you please send this into the White House for me. Please don't call my name. If you publish this, don't call my name until this goes to trial. I have been to Governor Russell for help, but have failed to get any."

Thus runs the letter of a Mississippi farmer, who, to be protected from Southern lynchers, must be left unnamed.

Is an Exile

He has been beaten, mobbed, driven from his home and family, shot, and is now in exile from those who know him.

For years he worked on the farm of Henry and Oly Rivers. He had about 75 acres which he tilled. While working on the place he was shot down in front of his wife, five children and mother-in-law. This occurred when he was just coming from town one day. He met the Rivers brothers in the public road. They, without warning, fired at him.

Prior to this time his life on the plantation had been one long experience of robbing and cheating and cruelty. He had borne it all. The letter written to the Defender correspondent here tells of brutality and murder like that of the Williams murder farm in Georgia. The man who is afraid to tell his name had been afraid to run away or to demand any pay for the large tract of land that he was working. Now his wrong cry out of themselves.

The brothers shot at him. One bullet entered his body just a fraction below the heart and passed through his right lung and liver. He still lives, but is probably an invalid for life. Were he with his family he would not be able to support it. He was forced to give up all—his people, his crops, his property.

Have Trial

A trial was had of the case. Henry and Oly Rivers were fined $50 each for attempting to shoot the heart out of a man and driving him from his hearth. It cost them just that much to do all they could to drive life and happiness from another American citizen. There was no trouble convicting them. They pleaded guilty. After they had paid their fines they met the afflicted man at the courthouse door and told him to clear out. If he came back they promised to kill him on sight. He knew they meant it and has been in hiding ever since.

He appealed to Governor Russell, but the worthy governor of this state has been too busy clearing himself of the serious charges brought against him by a young woman to give heed if he would.

Department of justice officials have been notified of this man's predicament and a history of the case involving the Rivers brothers has been put into their hands. Immediate federal action is absolutely necessary.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
DEC 15

Agriculture – 1922
Labor Conditions

Peonage (Florida)

Charge of Peonage Against Former Governor Sustained

Pensacola, Fla., May 11.—United States district Judge W. B. Sheppard today handed down a decision holding the ninth count in the indictment against former Governor Sidney F. Catts, charging violation of peonage laws, to be good, but sustaining the demurrer filed by Catts' counsel as to the remaining counts.

No date for the trial of former Governor Catts has been decided upon, it was stated at the office of District Attorney Cubberly.

Peonage Charges Against Ex-Governor Catts Thrown Out

PENSACOLA, Fla., May 19.—Eleven of the twelve counts in the indictment against Sidney J. Catts, former governor of Florida, charging peonage in connection with a Negro named Ed. Brown, were stricken out of the indictment by Federal District Judge William B. Shepard when the defendant's demurrer was sustained as to eleven counts and denied as to one count.

The government's attorneys asked for a little time in which to decide what course they would pursue in view of the court's ruling on the demurrer to the indictment. The government's attorneys will probably make an announcement in open court. Whether the government will go to trial on the single count left in the indictment or will abandon the case is problematical.

No date for the trial of former Governor Catts has been decided upon, it was stated at the office of District Attorney Cubberly.

CATTS PREPARES FOR DEFENSE ON PEONAGE CHARGE

(Associated Press)

PENSACOLA, FLA., Nov. 18.—Sidney J. Catts, former Florida governor, was in Pensacola today in connection with the defense he will put up when his case is called for trial Thursday of next week, November 16, in the United States district court here. The former executive is charged in two counts of an indictment with peonage in connection with the working of two pardoned negro convicts on his farm in Walton county, while he was governor.

CATTS ACQUITTED IN PEONAGE TRIAL

Former Governor of Florida Was Charged With Keeping Negro in State of Servitude.

Pensacola, Fla., November 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—Sidney J. Catts, former governor of this state, was found not guilty by a jury in federal court here tonight which tried him on a charge of peonage.

The jury deliberated only nine minutes. In fact, speed characterized the case from the beginning. The former governor was alleged to have held two negroes, Ed Brown and John Henry Rogers, in bondage on his farm after they had been pardoned from life-time sentences during his term of office.

The court took the case this morning, consumed less than an hour in selecting a jury, and advanced rapidly into a night session. At the conclusion of testimony at 11 o'clock both sides waived argument and Judge W. B. Sheppard delivered his argument.

The debt for which the government charges Catts was holding the negro Rogers in a state of peonage on his Walton county farm last year was disclosed by the prosecution today in the trial of the former governor in federal court here. An original contract signed by the negro to work on the farm until he had paid the governor $50 and 8 per cent interest was introduced as evidence. The negro, according to the contract, owed $50 to a business concern. The former governor paid it and the negro agreed to work for him until the debt had been cancelled.

The trial of the former executive was postponed on account of slow progress in the trial of the Valparaiso land fraud case in federal court here.

ER GOVERNOR IDNEY J. CATTS TO ACE COURT FRIDAY

(Associated Press)

PENSACOLA, FLA., Nov. 15.—Sidney J. Catts, of DeFuniak Springs, former governor of Florida, was in conference here today with his attorneys in preparation for his trial, again postponed today until Friday, on charges of peonage in connection with the alleged holding of two negroes on his plantation.

Agriculture - 1922

Labor Conditions.

Peonage (Arkansas)

NEW CALL
MARCH 20, 1922

PEONAGE PREVAILS IN ARKANSAS, LETTER FROM NEGRO FARMER SAYS

Man Driven From Land by Officials, Association for Advancement of Colored People Told.

A letter from a Negro farmer in Democrat, Arkansas, received and made public yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth avenue, reports conditions of peonage as prevailing there.

The letter reports that Negro farmers are told to work without being consulted about the amount of the rent to be taken from their produce or about supplies furnished them.

"Mr. ——— promised to furnish us money," says the letter, "but he is done changed an furnishing coupon books to his croppers. Mr. ——— will just come out from town an write us out what he want us to have never ask us what we want nor nothing so he aint doing us right. — I cleaned up a 40 (acre section) in the south half of 22, on the officers from Forrest City come and drove me off of the land come with their pistols an made me move an had paid $68 dollars down on the land an please take steps on this such things is what got the people stired up—"

The association announced that the letter would be called to the attention of the Federal Department of Justice.

ERIE PA DISPATCH
MARCH 17, 1922

REPORT PEONAGE CONDITIONS AT DEMOCRAT, ARKANSAS

A letter from a negro farmer in Democrat, Arkansas, received and made public by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth Avenue, reports conditions of peonage as prevailing there.

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"Mr. ——— is promised to furnish us money," says the letter, "but he is done changed an furnishing coupon books to his croppers. Mr. ——— will just come out from town an write us out what he wants us to have never ask us what we want nor nothing so he ain't doing us right. —— I cleaned up a 40 (acre section) in the south half of 22, an the officers from Forrest City come and, drove me off of the land come with their pistols an made me move an had paid $68 dollars down on the land and please take steps on this such things is what got the people tired up—"

The Advancement Association announced that the letter would be called to the attention of the Federal Department of Justice.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Agriculture — 1922.
Labor Conditions.

Peonage (New Texts)

N. Y. C. POST
JUNE 21, 1922

Tells How Negroes Flee From Peonage

Atlanta Minister Says "Underground Railroad" Operates as In Slavery Times

NEWARK, June 21.—A "modern underground railroad" to assist negroes in their escape northward and westward from peonage farms in the South was described at yesterday's session of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here by the Rev. R. H. Singleton pastor of the Bethel A. M. E. Church the largest negro church in Atlanta.

"Through the agency of a modern underground railroad now in operation," said Dr. Singleton, "refugees are received from peonage farms and camps in Georgia and are secreted in Atlanta. To my personal knowledge there are five or six such underground stations, which function exactly as they did when slaves escaped northward before the Civil War.

"People are escaping from these farms weekly, some of them even being hunted with bloodhounds. When they arrive in Atlanta, unless they have some hiding place, they are easily retaken and returned to captivity. We provide places where they remain in hiding until they can safely continue their journey northward or westward. We pay for their board and lodging and furnish transportation and expenses for a limited distance."

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 15

Cheap Labor Means Cheap Cotton

A Message to the New Orleans Cotton Conference

2/25/22
The Progressive Farmer

By CLARENCE POE

MR. R. O. EVERETT,
Care New Orleans Cotton Conference,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:—

As the originator of the Southern States Cotton Conference, you ask for suggestions as to what can be done to improve conditions for the Southern cotton grower.

In answer I would say that there are a number of ways of making cotton-growing more profitable. No one method alone is sufficient. The patient is suffering from a complication of diseases, and several varieties of treatment must be given.

I.

Of course one way to increase cotton prices is through coöperative marketing. At the present time the Southern farmer sells his cotton crop on a glutted market. The first one or two million bales that come on the market satisfy the immediate needs of the spinner—and then with the market already satiated and unresponsive, we proceed to force on it 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 additional bales in the next ninety days.

Nor will this condition ever be remedied without coöperative marketing. We may preach all we please about "living at home," but so long as crop prices remain as low as they are, hundreds of thousands of Southern cotton growers will continue to go into debt for supplies. They will not own their cotton after it is grown. And it will be forced on the market by a credit-system which demands that the grower deliver the cotton immediately after he gins it—so as to insure safe possession to the creditors. While if the men whose actual toil made the crop controlled its sale, they would often say, "We know how much time and sweat and labor we and our families have put into this crop and we are entitled to a better price," it too often happens that the creditor simply thinks, "Well, all I am interested in is to get my money back and my account settled, so I will sell right away."

II.

Another needed remedy for low-priced cotton is regulation of production. And here, it seems to me, your conference should urge a constructive and positive program rather than a negative one. It is not enough just to tell growers, "You must not plant so much cotton." We must develop satisfactory cash markets for products other than cotton. Otherwise the farmer must often sell these other products for less than their real worth. Furthermore, an individual farmer in selling hay, or corn, or hogs must often waste almost as much time as it took to raise the product—which doubles the cost of production to him.

Broadminded merchants must do more to make markets for products other than cotton. Too often there has been a feeling that the time merchant deliberately required crop-mortgage customers to plant an excessive cotton acreage simply in order to enable Mr. Merchant to profit by selling these men supplies. And often the merchant will buy hay, corn, and meal from the West instead of buying from his local farmers. If they don't raise the right grade or put it up right, he should tell them how. Farmers have a right to say to their local dealers, "If we buy from your shelves, you buy from our farms."

III.

But individual merchants alone cannot solve this problem. Along with coöperative marketing of cotton, we must develop coöperative marketing for other products. At least one additional or secondary "money crop" should be raised on every cotton grower's farm. In one community farmers may concentrate on sweet potatoes, having their coöperative curing house and marketing association. In another case they may raise hogs and market coöperatively. In another case, hay. In another case, soy beans. And so on.

The main point here is this: If coöperative marketing and sound business in cotton-growing makes cotton especially profitable, there will be an almost irresistible tendency to plant too much cotton—unless we also develop profitable markets for other crops. Consequently, coöperative marketing and community coöperation in production must proceed with other crops as well as cotton. We must regulate the production of cotton by making conditions such that it will be profitable to grow crops other than cotton.

IV.

There are other considerations even more fundamental, however, that I hope your conference will grapple with. Both Dr. Street and yourself have mentioned them. If I could write one great big motto to hang across the wall of your assembly hall and to be the conclusion of every speech to your meeting, I would select these words:

CHEAP LABOR MEANS CHEAP COTTON

No wonder the late Walter H. Page with his world-outlook declared over and over again that cheap labor had been the South's greatest curse and that that doctrine had cost the South leadership.

V.

As I have so often said in The Progressive Farmer, cotton has been a cheap crop heretofore because it has been made with cheap labor. It has brought a low price because the labor that produced it received a low wage.

It has brought a low price because it has been largely a child-labor crop; and because the labor which has produced it has lived largely under "slum conditions." We talk about the evil effects of child labor in the cotton factories, and labor leaders in such industries see that child labor reduces wages for all adult laborers; but we have not thought enough about the same wage-reducing effect of child labor in the cotton field. Labor leaders and welfare workers have had much to say about "sweated labor" and poor housing conditions, crowded slums and tenements, and the bad effect of these conditions on city industrial workers; but almost nothing has been said about the sweated labor and the slum-like crowded cabins in Southern cotton production and the consequent effect on our Southern agricultural workers.

Nowhere else in the country is child labor largely depended upon in farming as in the South. Nowhere else is so much farm labor done by women. Nowhere else are farm laborers housed in homes so crowded and ill-equipped. In Iowa 86 per cent of the homes have telephones; in South Carolina 2 per cent. In Utah 45 per cent of the farm homes have electric or gas light; in the South about 2 per cent. In Nebraska 75 per cent of the farm homes have automobiles; in five Southern states less than 10 per cent.

VI.

What if some one says that it is largely Negroes who work their children in this way—who work their women in this way—who must live in such crowded slum-like cabins as has just been suggested?

That fact does not alter the situation or affect the argument I am making. If the Negro cotton farmer makes cotton under such conditions, the white cotton farmer must face and meet this low-wage competition or eventually go under. If the Negro gets low wages, the white man is going to get low wages. So long as millions of Negroes make cotton under the conditions just suggested, they are going to pull down cotton prices for all our white farmers.

No matter whether they are Negroes, Chinese or Japanese, if several million people make cotton on a wage-basis or price-basis which forces them to live half-clad, half-fed, half-housed, they force down prices for all the rest of us and force the rest of us to take prices which prevent us from maintaining high standards of living.

VII.

We are never going to get on a basis of permanently profitable cotton prices until the congestion or disproportion of cheap Negro labor in cotton production is remedied.

How is it going to be remedied? I believe the remedy for this evil, as for a great proportion of others, is to be found in the simple formula of education. It may take us a long time to realize it, but we have got to do it before we get out of the trouble we are in. "Educate a Negro and spoil a hoe-hand" has been said a long time. I say that the more Negro hands we can "spoil" in this way and send into other industries, the better for the South. If half the Negroes who are in cotton growing should go to mines, railroads, factories, and city work, cotton prices would immediately receive a permanent boost.

VIII.

Of course it may be asked, "Would not the sending of a large part of our white farmers into other work boost prices in the same proportion?" It would not, because the prices of a product are going to be governed largely by the living standards and wage-basis of the people who produce it. If there had been no slave labor in the South with its example of cabins for houses, rags for clothes, and fat-meat and cornbread for diet, if cotton had always been made by white farmers with living standards such as Northern white farmers have, cotton would always have brought 50 per cent more than it has.

IX.

The great hope and ambition of my life is to help develop a splendid and worthy white civilization in the rural South. But I am also most profoundly convinced that, as you say, "we have got to lift the Negro up or he will pull us down." As I said in The Progressive Farmer recently:

"And just so long as we imagine that we can have compulsory attendance for white children without compulsory attendance for Negro children, we are going to pay the penalty in lower prices for cotton and tobacco. Suppose Negro children are kept out of school to help make an overproduction that forces down prices. Then because of the very fact that prices are so low, white parents begin to say, 'Well, at present prices I can't make enough to pay my debts unless I take my children out of school so as to help me make a bigger crop'—and prices go down lower still."

Suppose the cheap Negro labor of the South gets a common school education. When it does, it learns about the better wages offered in cities, mines, railroads, shops. More of it goes there. The result is to raise wages for the Negroes who stay behind in the South—and just in proportion as Negro wages increase, just in that proportion are white wages increased. And just as wages increase, just so will cotton prices increase. And just in proportion as wages and prices increas, just in that proportion will wealth increase, bank deposits increase, merchants' patronage increase—and so on and so on. "Cheap labor means cheap cotton"—and cheap cotton means bad business for the whole South.

Yours sincerely,

CLARENCE POE.

N Y C CALL
MARCH 6, 1922

The Negro Tenant Farmer

MOSES OPPENHEIMER.

E. K. Means has made a name for himself as a writer of short stories about the Negroes in the rural parts of the South. He tells of their joys and their sorrows, their fun and their superstitions, their simple philosophy of life, and many more of their peculiarities. And he gives you the certainty that he draws from life, with a sympathy rare indeed.

In one of his stories, published in the March issue of Munsey's, he incidentally tells of the experiences of Negro tenant farmers. He lets his hero explain why he now prefers to be a "town coon" in Tickfall village after his experience as a tenant farmer on

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shares:

"I done plowed an' chopped cotton an' milked cows an' slopped pigs, an' wucked from long befo' day till long after dark. When settling time come the white folks deduck my store account, an' deduck for the doctor, an' deduck for medicine, an' deduck for loss time, an' deduck for a cow he loant me, an' deduck fer de feed of the cow, an' deduck fer the loss of the cow because she died of the holler-horn. When I farmed, I mighty nigh starved to death. After all the deducks, one little lonesome two bits would jingle in my pocket an' make as much racket as a kickin jackass in a tin stable. Under them circumstances I ain't farmin' to please paw."

DESERTING FARM AND KITCHEN

Literary Digest 4/1/22
New York

FOR THE FIRST TIME in our history there are now more of us working in factories than on the farm. The 1920 census shows that in two fields of labor there has actually been a decrease in the number of workers, namely, the farm and "domestic and personal service." The National City Bank of New York has been summing up the chief changes shown in the 1920 census of persons "engaged in gainful occupations." It discovers in the first place that the analyses of occupations which have been made every ten years during the last half century show that while the number of persons at work in agriculture was in 1920 less than double that of 1870, the number engaged in "manufacturing and mechanical industries" was in round terms five times as many as in 1870, and those engaged in "trade and transportation" six times as many as in 1870. While some allowance in the case of the farm figures must be made for the fact that the censuses in 1910 and 1920 were not taken at the same season of the year, the writer for the bank does not see how that can entirely account for the large decrease, the figures for farm labor being 6,141,000, in 1870, 10,382,000 in 1900, 12,659,000 in 1910, and then dropping to 10,951,000 in 1920. At the same time, the number engaged in "manufacturing and mechanical industries" grew from 2,451,000 in 1870 to 7,086,000 in 1900, 10,658,000 in 1910, and 12,821,000 in 1920, "making it quite clear that irrespective of the change in the date of the census of agricultural occupations, the growth in the number of those engaged in manufacturing is far greater than those engaged along agricultural lines." Then,

"In the group showing the number engaged in 'trade and transportation' there is a still larger percentage of increase than in manufacturing and far larger than that of agricultur , the total number engaged in 'trade and transportation' n ving advanced from 1,240,000 in 1870 to 4,7 7,000 in 1900, 6,251,000 in 1910, and 7,390,000 in 1920, these creases having been of course coincidental with the growth in railroads and other transportation facilities, and in very recent years the use of the horseless vehicle for transportation as an adjunct to or in competition with the railways, which have shown but little growth in very recent years."

The housekeeper who says she simply can't find anybody to come and work in her kitchen is backed up by the Census Bureau, the writer for the New York bank notes. Owing to changes in grouping it is impossible to make comparisons farther back than 1910, but it does appear that the number of persons in "domestic and personal service" was materially smaller in 1920 than in 1910, being the only group besides farm labor showing a decrease. As we read:

"The total number of persons ten years of age and over employed under the designation 'domestic and personal service' was in 1920, 3,400,000 against 3,772,000 ten years earlier. The number of females engaged in 'domestic and personal service' fell from 2,521,000 in 1910 to 2,184,000 in 1920, while the males engaged in 'domestic and personal service' showed a much less reduction, from 1,241,000 in 1910 to 1,216,000 in 1920."

Our Southern Race Problem

Progressive Farmer
3/1/22
3 years old

OUR ever present race problem here in the South also begets questions innumerable.

Does not the ignorant Negro with his low living standards constitute the same sort of handicap in the South that a like proportion of Chinese or Japanese would constitute in California? Does not the "cheap labor" of the Negro, like that of the Chinaman, force down prices of all labor in the South—and consequently depress prices of all the products of Southern labor, including all our farm crops? And while this cheap-labor competition of the Negro beats down wages, profits, and income for all Southerners who work with their hands, does it help the other classes of society? Do not merchants have smaller trade, banks smaller deposits, professional men smaller incomes, etc., all because of the lessened incomes of the great masses of our population?

We have said, "Educate a Negro and you spoil a hoe hand," but would not the South be helped if we should "spoil" half a million Negro hoe hands, encourage them to take places in "public works" and thus lessen the overproduction of Negro-wage cotton? If we can raise the Negro's living standards, if we can make him want a better home and better living conditions, will not that save the white man's own higher standards from the dangers of cheap labor competition? We have taken no interest in compulsory education for Negro children, and yet so long as Negro children are kept out of school and in the fields, does not their competition lower crop prices and so help force white school children also out of the schoolhouse and into the fields?

But while favoring all agencies for improving and elevating the Negro, must we not insist that the interests of both races will be promoted by encouraging members of each race to live in communities to themselves and thereby give concentrated support to their own schools, churches, and social life?

We believe now, as we said last month, that the most important "news" is found in the almost world-wide popular discussion of issues such as these. And it is the duty of every reader to help work for their right solution.

N Y C EVE WORLD
MAY 12, 1922

WARNS NEGRO FARM HANDS.

Federal Agency Seeks to Place Them and Avoid Prejudice.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—The Farm Labor Bureau of the United States Employment Service, in its preparations for the opening of the harvest season in the big wheat belt, advises colored applicants for harvest hand jobs to write for special information before starting for the fields.

No explanation is given, but the idea is that in certain districts Negro farm hands are not wanted. The Service explains that farmers in these districts have made no provisions for separate quarters and also that whites and blacks do not mix. Certain other sections, it is said, employ only colored help.

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